Daily Report

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FBIS-EEU-93-245 *23 December 1993*

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Muslims, Serbs Continue To Negotiate Territories

AU2112214593 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Slobodan Jankovic report from Geneva]

[Text] The Serbian and the Muslim side are negotiating at this moment. Naturally, the territories and those 33.3 percent that the European Union has demanded in the name of the Muslims are at the focus of attention.

The fact that this meeting has been going on for more than three hours clearly shows that the negotiations are not easy. A slow progress of this round of the peace talks is understandable, because the most sensitive part of the plan is being discussed.

The Serbian-Croatian agreement is being put to a test again this evening. It is expected that the Muslim side will state whether it accepts or rejects the proposal offered. If it passes this test, also, today's Geneva agreement by the Serbian and Croatian sides will end up in Brussels tomorrow together with the opinion of the Muslim side.

The negotiators and cochairmen will meet with the foreign ministers of the European Union member countries there. The ministerial council of the European Union is pushing its plan of action passed at the Luxembourg summit, according to which the Muslims should get a third of the territory of the former Bosnia- Herzegovina.

As we have learned, those details that come under the category of the quality of territory are the most controversial in the talks this evening. The Muslim side, besides other things, insists on safe and wide corridors to their enclaves in eastern Bosnia and Tuzla.

Progress has been achieved in Geneva today, at least up to this moment. In Brussels tomorrow they will try to crown these talks.

Bosnian Warring Sides Agree to Christmas Truce

AU2212161193 Paris AFP in English 1606 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Brussels, Dec 22 (AFP)—Serbs, Croats and Moslems in Bosnia-Herzegovina agreed here Wednesday to a truce over the Christmas season, Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes said.

He was speaking after a meeting between foreign ministers of the European Community and the leaders of the warring parties in Bosnia.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said the truce included a commitment from Serbs to stop bombarding the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo.

The three sides also agreed to let aid convoys travel unhindered in Bosnia, and to guarantee free movement to United Nations forces.

Further on Christmas Truce

AU2212165593 Paris AFP in English 1635 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Brussels, Dec 22 (AFP)—Serbs, Croats and Moslems in Bosnia-Herzegovina agreed here Wednesday to a truce over the Christmas season, Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes said.

He was speaking after a meeting between foreign ministers of the European Community and the leaders of the warring parties in Bosnia.

But Claes, chairman of the E.C.'s Council of Foreign Ministers, acknowledged that there had been no breakthrough in the search for a peace settlement in Bosnia.

He said the truce included a commitment from Serbs to stop bombarding the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo.

The three sides also agreed to let aid convoys travel unhindered in Bosnia, and to guarantee free movement to U.N. forces.

The E.C. ministers won an agreement from the Croat leadership that the community should administer the town of Mostar on a multi- ethnic basis.

But they failed to persuade Bosnian Serbs to permit the United Nations administration of Sarajevo, or to open the airport at Tuzla for humanitarian aid missions.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said the meeting had achieved "progress, but insufficient progress." He added: "There was no manifest will for peace."

Croat President Franjo Tudjman and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic agreed to accept an E.C. peace plan for the disputed Serb- controlled Krajina area of Croatia.

And the warring sides agreed to continue negotiations under E.C. and United Nations auspices for the three-way division of Bosnia into Serb, Croat and Moslem republics.

They also agreed to continue negotiating Moslem access to the Adriatic Sea through the Croat-controlled port of Neum, and an E.C. proposal that the port should be placed under joint administration.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic said the Moslem-dominated Bosnian government did not accept the map allocating parts of Bosnia to the three sides.

In Geneva on Tuesday, the Serbs and Croats had agreed to raise the Bosnian Moslem share of the country from 30 to 33.33 percent.

But Silajdzic said the quality of the land offered was not good enough, and demanded that land seized from the Moslems in "ethnic cleansing" campaigns should be returned to them.

Juppe said the E.C. had shown a "very strong commitment"—particularly on the part of France and Germany—to promote a peace settlement.

But he warned: "Experience shows that excessive optimism is misplaced."

EU Official: Peace Negotiations Constructive

LD2212171393 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1627 GMT 22 Dec 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Brussels, Dec 22 (TANJUG)—The European Union chairman's spokesman said Wednesday in Brussels that the morning session of the peace negotiations on the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina was constructive in content and atmopshere and that the contribution of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic was especially noted.

A similar assesment was given by British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hogg, who however said there was little probability of reaching an agreement Wednesday.

In spite of this, circles close to the E.U. have noted important difficulties in the negotiating process, above all as the Muslim side is dissatisfied with the 'quality' of the territories offered by the Serb and Croat sides as concessions.

The route of the corridor to the Adriatic coast that the Muslims will get has not yet been completely marked out, the same sources said.

Another stumbling block is the status of Sarajevo, that the Muslim side wishes to keep entirely even if it comes under U.N. control. In this respect, the Muslim request is supported by the E.U.

Meanwhile, progress has been achieved in the negotiations on the corridors to link Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia and Sarajevo.

An additional difficulty in the talks so far is the privileged status of the Muslim side which is excepted from any pressure, at least publicly.

It had originally been planned that the Brussels peace negotiations would last one day, but it seems that they might continue Thursday, with a reduced number of participants.

We will work as long as necessary to reach an agreement, Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana said, adding that this could mean that debates will continue late Wednesday night and perhaps Thursday. A certain progress was made in Brussels, Solana said, adding that the Twelve remain optimistic.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said that one of the aims of the negotiations is the drawing of borders of Muslim, Serb and Croat territories in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but Muslims are not satisfied with the 'quality' of the territories they have been offered. We will be the last to force Muslims to accept an agreement they find unsatisfactory from the territorial point of view, Kinkel said, but went on to express cautious optimism.

Milosevic: War in Bosnia 'Should Stop at Once'

LD2212170993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1616 GMT 22 Dec 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Brussels, Dec 22 (TANJUG)—President of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia Slobodan Milosevic said in Brussels on Wednesday that he believed that the war in the area of the ex-Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina should stop at once and definitively.

At the peace talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina, in which the European Union (E.U.) foreign ministers also participate, Milosevic underscored that the Serb side has made maximum efforts to have such a proposal drawn up which would satisfy all the criteria defined so far for the achievement of a just solution to the Bosnian conflict.

Threats and pressures aimed against the Serb side, he pointed out, have become entirely meaningless.

In assessing that the proposed solutions have covered all the vital points in a future peace agreement, Milosevic committed himself to taking the mutual interests and accords as the basis for the realization of territorial corrections as insisted on by the warring sides.

The proposal is in front of you, President Milosevic told the E.U. foreign ministers and added that now it was their move.

In the end, Milosevic called the E.U. ministers—in the interest of peace and ahead of the season holidays—to display wisdom and courage and decide on whether there was any sense in further supporting the Moslem leadership's warlike policy.

Urges EU Not To Support Muslims

LD2212164093 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1513 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Brussels, 22 Dec (TANJUG)—Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic said in Brussels today that he believed that the war in the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina should end immediately and for good.

Speaking at the peace negotiations on Bosnia, also attended by EU [European Union] foreign ministers, Milosevic stressed that the Serb side invested maximum effort in order to draw a proposal that would meet all criteria specified so far for reaching a just solution to the Bosnian conflict.

Assessing that the proposed solutions have encompassed all vital issues of the future peace agreement, President

Milosevic advocated that the territorial corrections, on which the warring sides insist, should be made on the basis of mutual interests and agreements.

The proposal is before you, President Milosevic said addressing the EU ministers. It is your turn to act, ministers. The Serbian president said that threats and pressures on the Serb side no longer make any sense.

At the end, Milosevic called on the European ministers to display wisdom and courage in the interests of peace and ahead of the forthcoming holidays and the new year, and to decide whether there is any point in supporting the Muslim leadership's warmongering policy.

Milosevic, Bulatovic Urge Balanced Approach

LD2212142493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1312 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Brussels, 22 Dec (TANJUG)—Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic today urged the international community to assume a balanced approach toward all sides which, as he said, is the only way to achieve success in peace negotiations on Bosnia.

Addressing participants of the negotiations in Brussels this morning, Milosevic stressed that the peace agreement on Bosnia was possible, which was proved by a Serb-Croatian agreement on territorial settlement reached in Geneva yesterday.

The Serbian president recalled that the signing of the peace agreement on Bosnia did not depend on the Serb side alone, but also on the goodwill and readiness for it by other participants of the negotiations.

This morning a plenary session was held first in the Egmon Palace in Brussels with the participation of the EU [European Union] Twelve ministers of foreign affairs and then the Twelve had talks with the Serbian side. Both the plenary session and the talks with the Serbian side were held behind closed doors.

Montenegrin President Momir Bulatovic also urged a balanced approach to all the negotiating sides. As he said, there is no issue of the Yugoslav crisis, including Prevlaka, on which agreement is not possible.

Serb Republic President Radovan Karadzic recalled that previous peace efforts failed precisely because the international community refused to apply the same standards toward all the participants of the Yugoslav drama. He expressed fear that persevering in such a one-sided approach could again end in failure. [passage omitted]

Silajdzic: Insufficient Progress at Negotiations

LD2212162993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1443 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Brussels, 22 Dec (TANJUG)—Sufficient progress has not been made in negotiations so far, Bosnia-Herzegovina Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic stated at a news conference in Brussels today.

He confirmed that the Serb and the Muslim sides had met in Geneva yesterday evening.

Describing the offered solutions, which are also contained in EU [European Union] demands, as a minimum of a minimum, he said that the Muslim side demanded most territorial concessions in eastern and western Bosnia, because, according to him, ethnic cleansing was perpetrated there. Also, that the Serb side is reluctant to make concessions in Brcko and Doboj, and is against placing Sarajevo under UN protection. Silajdzic confirmed that on the other hand, the Serb side offered corridors between Sarajevo and enclaves in eastern Bosnia, but noted that they were not sufficiently wide.

As regards negotiations with the Croat side, there are difficulties in defining corridors to the sea. The Muslim side, according to him, is ready to accept a condominium with the Croats in Neum. Silajdzic also said he had nothing against the EU taking over the administration of Mostar in the next two years.

Asked whether the EU was also putting pressure on the Muslim side, Silajdzic gave an indirect reply, saying that the government in Sarajevo was against the division of Bosnia, but that this is the only option that has been offered so far.

Owen Blames Clinton for Continued Bosnia War

AU2212155093 Paris AFP in English 1535 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Amsterdam, Dec 22 (AFP)—Lord Owen, the European Community mediator in the Bosnian conflict, blamed the "idealistic" Clinton adminstration for the protraction of the war in an interview published here on Wednesday.

Lord Owen told the weekly ELSEVIER, which goes on sale on Thursday, that if George Bush had been re-elected U.S. President last year instead of Bill Clinton, the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina would have been over long ago.

He said Bush had not been very well disposed towards the Vance- Owen peace plan for the former Yugoslav republic, but could not see any other solution and was always looking for ways to save lives.

But according to Lord Owen, Clinton saw the Vance-Owen plan as being too tilted in favour of the Serbs and wanted to see justice done in line with his own idealism. He threatened to intervene militarily, and not only did these threats fail to produce the desired effect, he also failed to carry them out.

Lord Owen also lashed out at the Moslem side, saying that unless it showed greater flexibility there would be a greater bloodbath over the next two months.

"The Moslems are already bearing the brunt of the arms embargo, they have suffered enormously and if the government of (Bosnian President Alija) Izetbegovic

decides to go on fighting, the months of January and February will be the bloodiest of the war," he said.

Owen Says Bosnian Peace Talks 'Back on Track'

AU2212215393 Paris AFP in English 2139 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Brussels, Dec 22 (AFP)—International mediator Lord Owen on Wednesday welcomed a Christmas truce agreement reached here between the three warring factions in Bosnia, saying it put peace talks back on track.

Speaking after talks broke up for the night, Owen however added that it was still the negotiators' aim to reach a full political accord before Christmas, and confirmed that discussions would continue Thursday.

"We're back on the track," he told a press conference here, describing the day's talks as "serious discussion." "We can hope for a peaceful Christmas," he added.

But he said: "The more progress you make on political settlement, the better it will go.... The best way to guarantee peaceful Christmas is to make political progress."

Negotiators from Bosnian Serb, Moslem and Croat factions, who are meeting here at the invitation of European Community foreign ministers, were due to resume their talks Thursday morning.

Also Wednesday night, a Bosnian government delegate said the Serbs and Croats had presented a map which missed out one percent of territory which the Bosnian Moslems had demanded.

Croats and Serbs earlier in the week said they had agreed to offer the Moslems 33 percent of Bosnian territory. Owen indicated that Serbs were trying to come up with the missing one percent.

Tudjman, Milosevic, Izetbegovic on Peace Talks

LD2212215293 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Report by correspondent Jozo Curic]

[Excerpts] A very small move forward in Brussels, yet another conference without any agreements—the Muslims and the Serbs are to blame as they have not reached an internal agreement. At the continuation of the conference tomorrow the Croats will be represented by [Foreign] Minister Granic and Head [of the Office for National Security Hrvoje] Sarinic.

[Begin Tudjman recording] The biggest result of this meeting is that not only the entire European Union, but also the entire world, as United States, and Russia had their observers here, have no more doubts that everybody understands now who is causing problems, that there is no problem coming from the Croatian side, but that the Serb and the Muslim sides are causing problems. We did everything to clarify Croatian standpoints and we can conclude with pleasure that our standpoints were met with understanding and that we can expect the European Union to lend us support in further development of relations between Croatia and Europe, the European Union, in the economic and financial fields. [end recording]

The meeting with the Croats was conducted by Ministers Andreatta and Juppe, after Lord Owen said at the plenary session that there were problems in connection with the acceptance by the Muslims of the Croatian-Serbian proposal from Geneva. President Tudjman said that Croatia will be flexible, that it wishes for peace and an accepted modus vivendi. He called on the European Union to put pressure on the Serbs and thus bring the situation in Croatia closer to a solution. He demanded pressure to be put on Muslims because of the offensive in Bosnia, firing on the Nova Bila convoy:

[Begin Tudjman recording] There are people killed, around 30 trucks have been seized, and an all-out Muslim offensive against Vitez and Kiseljak is under way. [end recording]

There was a proposal that the Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina should get 14 percent. President Tudjman demanded 17.5 percent of the territory. Kresevo, Kiseljak, and the survival of the Croats in central Bosnia were in the package. [sentence as heard] Croatia supports the integrity of Mostar under European protection, Croats abide by their concessions offered [to the Muslims] on the "Invincible": use of the port of Ploce, construction of a tourist settlement on Klek, a port on the Neretva river.

The Serbs' and Muslims' access to the sea by a road near Prevlaka can be examined only after peaceful resolution of UN protected areas in Croatia, and after the peace agreement in Bosnia-Herzegovina has been reached, in whose union of republics the Croats see the Croat Republic of Herzeg-Bosna. The automatic handover of the port of Neum to the Muslims if Bosnia-Herzegovina disintegrates is ruled out. If the union is unilaterally broken by the Croats, then they can lose Neum, the Croatian president says, adding that the Croats will never unilaterally break the union of Bosnia-Herzegovina. All this was under discussion today.

[Begin Tudjman recording] There have been profound disagreements—between the Muslim delegation headed by Izetbegovic and the Bosnian Serb delegation headed by Karadzic. It could be said that Karadzic's stands aroused the indignation of the chairing and other ministers of the Council of Europe.

Milosevic tried to be more accommodating.

The main discussions revolved around the sanctions and, in this context, the European Community, especially the council's President Claes gave an extremely sharp reply to the speech delivered by Churkin who was an observer and who interpreted the meeting in his own way, almost proposing the suspension and lifting of the sanctions against Serbia—something the European

Union has no intention of doing. This was clearly stated by both President Claes and [French Foreign] Minister Juppe—that there can only be a gradual lifting of the sanctions under certain conditions, if there is progress toward ending the war and the establishment of peace. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Begin Milosevic recording] I think significant progress has been made, especially on the basis of the agreements reached yesterday between the Serb and Croat delegations in full composition. This agreement is, in fact, the basis for the success of this round of negotiations. [passage omitted]

In its own way, the Brussels conference is a reflection of the European Union's desire to achieve peace but also shows how the Muslims and Serbs in Bosnia do not wish to be flexible enough to resolve all issues.

In the talks I had yesterday, first with Izetbegovic and later with Milosevic, as well as the talks between the delegations, we tried to resolve an important issue—the Muslims' demand for 33.3 percent of the territory [of Bosnia-Herzegovina] for their republic. We took part in this and managed to contribute to such a solution, but on condition that the Croat Republic of Herzeg-Bosna acquires at least 17.5 percent of the territory. We also envisaged a solution by which this Croat republic would include certain [Croat-populated] regions in central Bosnia—Novi Travnik, Vitez, Busovaca, Kresevo, and Kiseljak.

We heard today that the Muslims object to the shape of their republic, that they are opposed to such a solution, and we replied—we proposed this before so the Bosnian [Muslim] republic could be created—that we could give up Kresevo and Kiseljak, although those are exclusively Croat-populated regions. However, in such a case, Croatia would have to receive compensation somewhere else. This remained an open question. [end recording]

President Tudjman's replies are to the point—this is how French Foreign Minister Juppe assessed Croatia's stands. Croatia scored most of its points thanks to its advocacy of peace.

Tudjman requested the European Union's support for [Croatia's] reconstruction and for humanitarian needs, as well as that pressure be exerted on Serbia because of its aid to the rebel Serbs in Croatia, pressure on Belgrade so it would accept a solution to the situation in Croatia.

By applying pressure on the Muslims, the European Union would prevent the continuation of the offensive against the Croats in central Bosnia.

President Tudjman accused [Bosnian Muslim Presidency member] Ejup Ganic of complicity in the massacre [of 12 Croat construction workers] in Algeria in front of all 12 ministers. [passage omitted]

All day long the Muslims have been torpedoing the Serb and Croat plan from Geneva that gives them one-third of the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Izetbegovic has been rejecting the option of acquiring access to the sea at Prevlaka, arguing that a major and long thoroughfare would have to be constructed there and that this was too difficult. He demanded sovereignty over the Klek peninsula. He said that the Serb concessions in eastern Bosnia are unsatisfactory, the European Union wishes to link those [Muslim] enclaves with Sarajevo.

[Begin Izetbegovic recording] Mr. Tudjman has made a step forward by influencing the decision that Mostar be placed under the administration of the international community, this is a step forward. In my view, nothing else has been accomplished. [end recording] [passage omitted]

UN Approves Transit of Bulgarian Goods Across Serbia

LD2212234993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2147 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, December 22 (TANJUG)—The U.N. has approved to Bulgaria transit of convoys of up to 15 trucks daily across the territory of the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia with export goods for Western Europe, the Bulgarian Government in Sofia announced Wednesday.

As reported by news agencies, the trucks, carrying mostly farm produce and medicaments, are to use a special corridor and move sealed and escorted.

The convoys are to start moving next month.

Such a regime is to facilitate transit of goods from Bulgaria banned under the U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia.

The U.N. Security Council in late May last year imposed comprehensive and binding sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which it tightened twice since, over its alleged involvement in the 20 month civil war between the local Moslems, Serbs and Croats in the neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The sanctions have incurred on the Yugoslav economy an estimated damage amounting to at least 25 billion dollars.

The customs officials will be checking the cargo weight at the Bulgarian-Yugoslav and the Hungarian-Yugoslav borders.

The Yugoslav Government and the Serbian Government have long since evinced the readiness to meet the Bulgarian request, on condition Yugoslavia's integrity was not threatened with the introduction of the corridors, and that the convoy escorts not be made up of troops from countries which waged wars on this territory and be unarmed.

"Our roads, air space, railroad and waterways are open to all," said Serbian Transport Minister Zarko Katic during his recent visit to Sofia.

The official Sofia assessed that the overall damage Bulgaria sustained as a result of the sanctions against Yugoslavia stood at 3.5 billion dollars.

'All Participants' Leaving Brussels Peace Talks

AU2212213593 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Slobodan Jankovic report from Geneva]

[Excerpts] All participants of today's meeting are returning from Brussels tonight. The latest talks between the Serbian and the Muslim sides have ended without any significant results, at the end of the day that was full of turnabouts. I would like to remind our listeners that the host of the Brussels meeting, Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, started this round of peace talks with threats and ended it at a news conference with a conclusion that there was nevertheless more good news than bad news. [passage omitted].

The two sides will resume talks immediately, Willy Claes boasted today. The European ministers expect that agreements on important issues concerning Bosnia will be reached in the days to come.

Milosevic: Doboj, Brcko Issues 'Practically Solved'

AU2312121793 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Slobodan Jankovic report from Brussels]

[Text] This morning, in the (Egmont) Palace in Brussels, negotiations continued between the three warring factions in Bosnia. The delegations are headed by Radovan Karadzic, Alija Izetbegovic, and Mate Boban. This is how David Owen, cochairman of the Conference on Former Yugoslavia, assessed yesterday's meeting upon arriving at the negotiations.

[Begin Owen recording in English with superimposed Serbo- Croatian translation] Last night we made substantial progress on the Brcko issue, and I believe that we can now put that issue aside. [end recording] Today we are going to discuss the issue of Sarajevo in general, said Lord Owen.

Last night, prior to leaving Brussels, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic told reporters that certain progress has been made, and that the agreement on the percentage of territory had been strengthened. Now the three sides will discuss minor alterations and adaptations on the basis of bilateral interests. Karadzic, Izetbegovic, and Boban will discuss this tomorrow, said President Milosevic last night. In response to whether the Muslim side would get more new territories, Slobodan Milosevic said:

[Begin Milosevic recording in English with superimposed Serbo- Croatian translation] This depends on the significance of some parts of the territories. The Serbs have tried to make concessions which would accommodate all the more important Muslim interests. I would say that they have succeeded in this. This evening we had a long talk with the Muslim delegation, and we have practically solved the Brcko and Doboj issues, and the issue of certain other parts which are extremely important to them. [end recording]

The negotiations will continue between the three side, said President Milosevic, and added that he was not sure that they would reach an agreement, in view of the fact that the Muslim side very often changes its approach. I am sure that we are very near to concluding the peace plan, said Slobodan Milosevic, ending his statement last night before leaving for Belgrade.

The cochairmen and the delegations of the three warring factions have remained here in the (Egmont) Palace in order to continue negotiations about the remaining controversial issues.

EC, Russia Reportedly Clash at Peace Talks

AU2312122193 Paris AFP in English 1138 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] Brussels, Dec 23 (AFP)—The Bosnian ambassador to the United Nations Thursday said there had been a sharp clash between the European Community and Russia at the Bosnian peace talks in Brussels.

Mohamed Sacirbey told journalists as the talks resumed Thursday that the pro-Serb attitude of Russian envoy Vitaliy Churkin had sparked the clash Wednesday.

He said Churkin had "painted a rosy picture" about the prospect of lifting international sanctions against Serbia, and had portrayed the Bosnian Moslems as the main obstacles to peace.

The Bosnian ambassador added that the chairman of the meeting, EC Foreign Minister Willy Claes, had accused the Russian "in rather harsh terms" of pro-Serb bias.

The talks resumed here Thursday in a bid to shore up a Christmas truce that took effect shortly after midnight but was ignored with heavy shelling in Sarajevo, and to nail down elusive details of a three-way division of Bosnia.

Taking part in Thursday's session was Bosnian Moslem President Alija Izetbegovic, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban, with European Community mediator David Owen and his co-chairman of the peace talks, U.N. mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg.

Berisha Thanks IMF for Economic Reform Help

AU2112164293 Tirana ATA in English 0906 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 21 (ATA)—Talks completed in Tirana recently between the Albanian party and the IMF mission to carry out the 1994 economic program. The program is part of a three-year project IMF has developed for Albania.

President Berisha met the IMF mission led by Mr. Scot Brown on December 20. President Berisha thanked Mr. Brown for the assistance the IMF has provided to Albania to carry out the economic reforms. After stressing that because of great poverty Albania has to suffer the consequences of the market economy, President Berisha underlined that the "institutional consolidation and large-scale privatization are two principal targets of the democratic government for the next year."

Mr. Brown, head of IMF mission, said he was sure in the success of the economic program and thanked the Albanian Government for the support to the IMF in this direction.

UNICEF Envoy on Assistance Program

AU2212165993 Tirana ATA in English 0907 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 22 (ATA)—The Albanian Government will accelerate the national program of UNICEF for Albania, the special representative of UNICEF in Tirana, Alireza Mahallati, said at a press conference on December 21. Regarding the application of this program in Albania, Mr. Mahallati pointed out that the realisation of this program in Albania will be preceded by the qualification of 6-8 thousand doctors, specialists for the prevention and treatment of some diseases.

Replying reporters present in the conference, Mr. Mahallati pointed out that the program of UNICEF for Albania for 1994 includes health sector, food, and education, the role of mass media in the realisation of this program, the care for mothers as an important factor in the good health of the children. He voiced the conviction that the changing of laws will serve better the equality of all women in Albania. The qualified staff, the necessary equipment are factors which will influence in the improvement of the health and the situation of children in Albania, Mr. Mahallati said.

Attending the press conference was also the U.S. ambassador in Tirana, William Ryerson.

Local Purchase Power, Foreign Aid Increase

AU2112174093 Tirana ATA in English 1132 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 21 (ATA)—Local purchasing power has been significantly increased during the past year by the approximately five hundred million dollars in remittances received from Albanian emigrants abroad, according to the GAZETA SHQIPTARE December 19. At the same time, the value of goods brought into Albania by emigrants during 1993 was about 600 million new leks (nearly 6 million dollars).

Foreign aid accorded to Albania during the first ten months of 1993 amounted to 2 billion, 391 million leks. Other important sources of revenue have been exports, which during the first nine months of the year brought in 6 billion, 775 million leks and foreign trade credits for the Albanian private sector.

Commission Views Problems in Land Reform

AU2212172293 Tirana ATA in English 1110 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Tirana, December 22 (ATA)—Current problems in the land reform program were examined at yesterday's meeting of the government land commission. Draft laws on the prices of land for the purpose of compensation, for the registration of land in the land courts and governing the rental contracts have already been prepared.

The commission received a report on the work carried out so far under the project for land registration and for the creation of a modern cadastre.

Zhelev Commends Parliament on NATO Declaration

AU2212215493 Sofia BTA in English 2037 GMT 22 Dec 93

["Today"—BTA lead]

[Excerpts] Sofia, December 22 (BTA)—Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev commended parliament on yesterday's passage of the declaration stating Bulgaria's readiness to join NATO. This is a historic decision because it seeks new guarantees for Bulgaria's national security in the post-communist era and also because it is in line with this country's new foreign policy aimed at joining Europe through integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures, President Zhelev says in his address to the MP's. Dr. Zhelev stresses that the document passed with consensus and that the MP's ignored their narrow party interests and acted in compliance with the national interest: Seeking military and political guarantees for Bulgaria's national security. [passage omitted]

The Confederation of the Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria (KNSB), one of the two most influential labour organizations in this country, will keep its contacts with SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] after Filip Dimitrov's re-election SDS leader, KNSB leader Krustyu Petkov told a news conference today.

As for the party interests, the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) is much content with Mr. Dimitrov's re-election as SDS National Coordinating Council leader, but as far as the national interests are concerned, this is a disastrous decision, said Chavdar Kyuranov, leader of the BSP-affiliated reformist Union for Social Democracy. According to Prof. Kyuranov, the agreement in principle on Bulgaria's foreign debt settlement, the negotiated loans and the UN Sanctions Committee's recognition for the losses this country is sustaining, promise a better 1994. [passage omitted]

The Ministry of Justice will submit to President Zhelev a report on the performance of the Commission for Bulgarian Citizenship, Commission Chairman and Deputy Minister of Justice Pavlin Nedelchev said. The president will be informed about a very important problem related to the Bulgarians in Ukraine who want Bulgarian citizenship. The Ukrainian legislation does not permit double citizenship and the problem should be considered at government or president level by the two countries, Mr. Nedelchev said. [passage omitted]

Daskalov, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Yugoslav Issue

AU2212203693 Sofia BTA in English 1947 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 22 (BTA)—Bulgarian Foreign Minister Stoyan Daskalov and U.S. Ambassador William Montgomery had a working lunch today. The two exchanges views on the letter from U.S. Secretary of State Christopher handed Foreign Minister Daskalov on December 21, the conflict in former Yugoslavia and certain embargo- related issues, the Foreign Ministry's Press Office said. The Bulgarian foreign minister and the U.S. ambassador also discussed U.S. assistance for Bulgaria's admission to GATT and the prospects for the future development of the bilateral relations.

Yesterday U.S. Ambassador Montgomery met Bulgarian Prime Minister Lyuben Berov.

Shipments Through Yugoslavia Begin in January

AU2212204293 Sofia BTA in English 2001 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Sofia, December 22 (BTA)—A sitting of the Government Sanctions Commission today heard a report by Deputy Transport Minister Kiril Vasilev on the procedure for transit land shipment of goods through the territory of former Yugoslavia, which has already been approved by the UN Sanctions Committee. The procedure allows for a daily passage of two convoys of 10 to 12 vehicles which should cover the Kalotina-Nis-Belgrade-Novi Sad-Subotica-Tompa route within 9 to 12 hours. The cargo will be weighed at the Kalotina border crossing (on the Bulgaria-Serbian border) and once again in the Hungarian town of Tompa. Permit of the Sanctions Committee will be required for the passage of each convoy. The first convoys will be ready to go in the first half of January 1994.

UN Adopts Bulgarian Initiated Embargo Resolution

AU2212212093 Sofia BTA in English 2018 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] New York, December 22 (BTA)—The UN General Assembly passed with consensus a resolution on granting economic assistance to countries affected by the enforcement of the UN Security Council sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, the Foreign Ministry's Press Office said.

The resolution was introduced at the Second Committee of the 48th session of the UN General Assembly at Bulgaria's initiative on the behalf of 12 other countries.

The document voices a concern over the serious economic problems that countries in the region are facing and recognizes the urgent need to offer them technical and financial assistance to overcome the difficulties. The resolution takes into consideration the recommendations of the UN Sanctions Committee for assisting the affected countries through finding ways to expand their export and encourage foreign investors. It calls upon the member countries, specialized UN bodies and organizations, as well as international financial institutions and regional banks for development to undertake concrete actions to this end.

Interior Ministry Checks at Serb Border

AU2212213693 Sofia BTA in English 2015 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 22 (BTA)—Following numerous signals on violations of the visa and customs regime, Interior Ministry units conducted an operation to ensure order at Kalotina border checkpoint (on the border with Serbia) yesterday, says a release of the ministry's Press Office. During a police check 47 deserted cars were found, each carrying an average of 1,500 litres of fuel. 49 undocumented persons, holding no foreign-travel passports, were arrested and were released at 6 a.m. [0400 GMT] today after their identity was established.

An officer of the Interior Ministry, taking part in the check and the enforcement of order in the area, was swept by a crowd which crossed into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Chief officers at the Kalotina border checkpoint failed in their efforts to bring back the Bulgarian policeman. The Yugoslav authorities at Gradica border checkpoint said there was no such person with them.

The Interior Ministry's leadership has asked the Foreign Ministry to take steps for the repatriation of the Bulgarian policeman.

Russia's Avdeyev Meets Berov

AU2212153693 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1400 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] On 22 December Prime Minister Lyuben Berov received Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Avdeyev. Assessing the situation in Russia after the recent elections, Mr. Avdeyev said that despite certain manifestations of chauvinism and nationalism the emergence of fascism in Russia is impossible. As far as the future of Bulgarian-Russian relations is concerned, he assured the prime minister that no negative change in those relations is to be expected.

Discussing the still alarming situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina the Russian ambassador expressed the opinion that the sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro have reached their humanitarian limit.

Russia will undertake active international steps aimed at easing and eliminating the sanctions as long as this is accompanied by developing and strengthening the peace process and decreasing the intensity of the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

Agricultural Commission Complains About Budget

AU2212183693 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 17 Dec 93 p 3

[Report by Andon Cheshmedzhiev: "The Land Reform Has Hardly Any Chance of Success—Not Even in 1994"]

[Text] Sofia—The Parliamentary Commission for Agriculture, which discussed the 1994 draft budget at yesterday's meeting, confirmed that the funds allocated to the agricultural sector can hardly guarantee the normal functioning of this sphere. The amount of money that the Ministry of Finance is granting for this portion of the budget represents less than half of the necessary resources, according to the assessment of the agricultural department's experts. The funds envisaged for the land reform amount to over 191 million leva less than those of the 1993 budget, and it is almost certain that the 210 million leva, which have so far not been paid to the companies participating in land distribution for their work, will also be allocated from the current budget. Thus, the deficit for the most urgent agricultural activities is expected to exceed 400 million leva. If the average price of land distribution per one decare does not exceed 40 leva, then no more than 15-16 million decares of land can be restituted to its original owners in 1994. This means that the 100-percent restitution that Agriculture Minister Tanev promised for March 1993 will not be accomplished even in 1994.

Achievements in the other agricultural sectors do not look much more promising. For example, only 10 million leva are envisaged for irrigation and land improvement installations, which is like having three liters of gasoline for an automobile trip from Sofia to Varna.

According to the Federation of Independent Trade Unions in agriculture, the situation of the agricultural sector mapped out by the draft budget is likely to "aggravate the general economic crisis in our country even more, and the social consequences for the land owners and agricultural workers in the country will be disastrous." According to the Federation, even today the situation of those working in the rural areas, as far as the size of their incomes is concerned, is one of the most desolate in the country.

Podkrepa TU Protest Rally Held in Sofia

AU2212180793 Sofia BTA in English 1629 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 22 (BTA)—Members and sympathizers of the Podkrepa Labor Confederation, one of the most influential trade unions in this country, demanded the resignation of the cabinet headed by Lyuben Berov at a national rally in downtown Sofia today. Participants in the rally carried slogans "We Want Bread and Jobs," "No More Demagogy in Parliament," "Mercy for the Needy." Speakers at the rally stressed Berov's cabinet was pursuing an anti-national policy with grave consequences for the social and economic situation in this country. A declaration adopted at the rally calls for consolidation of the anti-communist forces and decisive personnel changes in the cabinet. Miners' of the Podkrepa Trade Union have been on strike since December 13.

Outstanding wages are being paid to miners of the other influential trade union, the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (KNSB), under an agreement between the trade union and the cabinet as of December 13, but payment is being delayed at places, the KNSB leadership told a news conference today. Officers of the Industry Ministry and the management of Gorubso, the mining enterprise, are to blame for the delay, said KNSB leader Krustyo Petkov. The confederation will not conclude a general agreement with Berov's cabinet for 1994 because it is not clear how long the present cabinet will stay in office, Petkov said. Besides, there is no distinct political will and parliamentary back-up behind the cabinet, he added. The cabinet has fulfilled a mere 20 per cent of conditions set in a KNSB memorandum, according to the trade union leader. Ore miners of the confederation were on strike from December 6 to 13, and uranium miners from December 6 to 20.

Poll Gives BSP 3 Percent Lead Over SDS

AU2212122793 Sofia BTA in English 1201 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Sofia, December 22 (BTA)—If elections were held now, the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) would poll 26 percent of the vote and the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS)—23.3 percent. These are the results of a representative opinion poll conducted by the BBSS Gallup in December which 24 CHASA publishes today. The poll was held with 1,186 persons over 18 years of age in 150 population centres.

The comparison of data obtained on a monthly basis by BBSS Gallup in April-December 1993 shows that the SDS has stabilized its position at a considerably lower level than the BSP. The SDS overcome the minimum of 20.4 percent it polled in September. Levelling with the SDS in May, the BSP keeps its leading position, though in December its electorate is below the maximum of 29.4 percent polled in November.

According to 40 percent of the persons interviewed in December, the BSP will poll a majority of the vote in future general elections; 17 percent of respondents believe that the SDS will win the elections; 8 percent name some other political force; and 35 percent are undecided.

The poll shows that now the BSP and the SDS would poll a total of 49 percent of the vote; 4.3 percent would vote for the ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms; the numerous agrarian parties would poll 8 or 9 percent, but only the Bulgarian Agrarian Party led by Anastasiya Mozer can be expected to poll more than 4 percent of the vote required to qualify for the distribution of seats in parliament. The Bulgarian Business Bloc, chaired by George Ganchev, would also be able to overcome the 4-percent barrier. Mr. Ganchev polled 17 percent of the vote in the January 1992 presidential election. Judging by the results of the poll, there is no political figure capable of uniting the people who would vote neither for the BSP nor for the SDS, and 22.7 percent of respondents would not go to the polls at all.

Klaus on European Integration, Arms Exports

AU2212171693 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 18 Dec 93 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus by Roman Krasnicky; place and date not given: "Not Quite Ideal Methods of Western Democracies"]

[Text] [Krasnicky] You are going to visit Hungary today. Are you going to hold talks with local politicians? How do you feel about the fact that the Czech Republic still does not have an ambassador in Budapest?

[Klaus] I am going to participate in Antall's funeral. When statesmen meet, they do not talk about the upcoming Christmas. I will certainly use my visit to conduct a number of talks, but I would just call them small talks. I would like to see the acting Hungarian prime minister and meet—for the first time ever—the new Polish prime minister. I have a feeling that I will also meet [Slovak Prime Minister] Meciar in Budapest. I saw him recently at the Central European Initiative meeting in Budapest on 16 July 1993. Regarding the ambassador to Hungary, I believe that our foreign minister is trying to find someone qualified for this job.

I have visited several countries in which we do not have an ambassador—for instance, Mexico and Romania. I have also been to Germany and Slovenia, and I have the feeling that we have top ambassadors there. We are filling the ambassadors' positions as quickly as we find the proper person for one position or another.

[Krasnicky] You are going to receive the Konrad Adenauer award on 21 December, and you will make a speech on European integration on that occasion. How do you view this integration?

[Klaus] One of the tasks that European politicians have is to constantly interpret the idea of European integration and give it the correct meaning. Our task is to carefully mind the opinions of the "founding fathers." Konrad Adenaurer was certainly one of them. We have to differentiate between generally valid ideas and ideas that were appropriate in the 1950's—that is, when this idea originated with the aim to prevent yet another world war.

[Krasnicky] Articles have recently appeared in the foreign press saying that Czech companies are exporting arms to Libya, or that the Czech Skoda Plant in Plzen is trying to export nuclear technology to Iran. Is this proof that the Czech Republic is unreliable or rather a consequence of pressures exerted by the economic lobby in the West?

[Klaus] I would say, unequivocally, that it is the latter case. I do not believe that the Czech Republic would do anything wrong in that matter. Very often, the articles describe detailed stances of the competitor to one Czech company or another. I am not nervous, but I am rather sorry about the fact that even the Western democracies that function so well are using methods that are not always ideal.

[Krasnicky] Some government members have discussed exports that will become the key factor in our economy. What exactly was said at the meeting?

[Klaus] We have not said anything fundamental, but we have reached the conclusion that state interventions in export operations have to be reduced to a lesser extent than some companies would believe. These companies were used to it in the past, and some officials were attached by an umbilical cord to these companies for decades. We have made no conclusions, but we believe that it would be a mistake for the government to interfere in the organization of our foreign trade in some extraordinary way.

KDS Wants Territorial Reform Completed

AU2212133893 Prague CTK in English 0948 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Prague, Dec 22 (CTK)—The government coalition Christian Democratic Party (KDS) said on Tuesday [21 December] it recommended to complete the legislative side of a reform of the territorial setup of the Czech Repibloc by the end of 1994 and to hold elections to the representative bodies of higher administrative units by June 1995.

In its statement the KDS also recommended to complete the basics of a law on higher administrative units by the end of January 1994, while the concept of division of powers between state administration and self-government at individual levels should be completed by the end of May 1994.

By its statement, the party has reacted to Tuesday's meeting of the chairmen of the four coalition parties at which a certain consensus on the reform of public administration was found.

The consensus is to allow the government to approve a document today to be submitted to parliament, Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus's spokeswoman Klara Pospisilova said after the Coalition Four's talks yesterday.

On November 11, the parliament passed a resolution calling on the government to submit to it a timetable for the reform of public administration by the year's end. The debate on the reform has been going on fruitlessly for several months.

The four coalition parties are the Civic Democratic Party (ODS), the Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU- CSL), the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA), and the KDS.

Parliament Approves 1994 State Budget

AU2212145593 Prague CTK in English 1231 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Bratislava, Dec 22 (CTK)—Slovak parliament approved the government draft Slovak state budget for 1994 today. Seventy-seven deputies voted in favor of it, while 37 were against, and 33 deputies abstained. Seventy-five votes were necessary for the adoption in the 150-seat Slovak parliament. The approval of the budget is considered an important success of Meciar's cabinet.

Weiss Apologizes for Voting for Budget

LD2212215693 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1730 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Report by correspondents Magda Pospisilova and Ludmila Bulakova on the Slovak Parliament session held on 22 December; passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Pospisilova] The approval of close on to 129 amendments to the draft 1994 budget that took more than two hours, as well as continual calculations about the number of votes, apparently affected the deputies' nerves. Their outcome was the unexpected statements made firstly by Ladislav Pittner, a deputy for the Christian Democratic Movement [CDM], followed immediately by that made by Peter Weiss, the chairman of the Party of the Democratic Left [PDL], that they voted in error in favor of next year's budget. Peter Weiss had this to say to us:

[Weiss] "I have made an unpardonable mistake and this is why I am now going to the Club of PDL Deputies where I will apologize. I am taking this opportunity to apologize also to the public, as my statements with regard to the state budget were unequivocal, and for anyone making such a mistake it is on the whole natural that he should offer his resignation from his party post. It is now up to the PDL bodies to consider what I have done, which was, to put it briefly, due to a lack of concentration.

"I made this error because, as I must admit, I was already thinking about what kind of further steps should be taken when the budget is turned down. The fact that, even without my vote, the budget would have been passed is not an excuse, since when the vote was taken I could not have known this. In brief, I have made a mistake and therefore, I have to take all the consequences for such a mistake."

[Pospisilova] During the afternoon we received a statement issued by the Club of PDL Deputies that says: "The budget for 1994 was approved by 64 deputies for the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS], nine deputies for the Slovak National Party [SNP], and two independent deputies, Ivan Hudec and Peter Brnak. Deputies of the PDL Club regard the mistake made by Peter Weiss as humanly explainable and the Club does not have any doubt about his negative attitude to the budget. What happened during voting was that deputies from a number of clubs were listed as having not voted, although they voted against" says the statement of the PDL Club in the Slovak parliament at the close.

[Bulakova] The second culprit who voted in favor of the budget by mistake was Ladislav Pittner, whose case was also dealt by his deputies club. We asked CDM Chairman Jan Carnogursky about what kind of conclusion the club has arrived.

[Carnogursky] "Ladislav Pittner said that he had pushed the button in favor of the budget by mistake. I personally believe him, that this was done in error, and when the matter was discussed in the club, the club as a whole trusted him that this was an unintentional mistake."

[Pospisilova] Despite the previously mentioned two mistakes made during final voting, nothing changes the fact that the draft state budget for next year was approved by the National Council of the Slovak Republic [parliament] today, by the majority of three votes, or if we discount the previously mentioned two votes, by one vote in excess of the required number. How did Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar assess this step taken by the parliament?

[Meciar] "I reckoned that the bill would be passed by the parliament and I said so publicly at a news conference several hours before the vote was taken. This proves that the HZDS, as well as that section of the SNP who have offered to cooperate with us, will succeed in creating a functioning whole, and that in key moments they will succeed in winning help and support."

President Holds Minorities Roundtable Discussion

LD2212212393 Bratislava STV 1 Television Network in Slovak 1830 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Excerpts] At Bratislava Castle today, President Michal Kovac held the third of his meetings with representatives of all minorities living in Slovakia. The minorities roundtable is the platform which provides for an open dialogue between the head of state and representatives of the minorities. [passage omitted]

The president of the republic returned to a recent appeal by the Association of Towns and Villages of Zitny Ostrov region, supported by the Hungarian parliamentary political movements.

[Begin Kovac recording] In this context I feel obliged to declare again unequivocally that I cannot support any idea of a territorial autonomy or self-administration on ethnic principle. I am convinced that a wide-ranging self-administration of villages is capable of sufficiently ensuring the access of all citizens of the republic, including members of minorities, to the management of their matters. [passage omitted]

Perceiving one point of view, an ethnic one, as the absolutely valid one when drafting a new territorial

administrative set-up would ultimately damage all citizens of the regions in question, including members of minorities. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] At the end of the discussion the president told journalists that he identifies himself with a proposal, which he will put forward to the government, calling for the establishment of a state body dealing with minorities issues on a permanent basis. The existing government minorities council is unable to cope, he said. [passage omitted]

The president proposed that another meeting should be convened in three months' time. [passage omitted]

Meciar Proposes Repeal of Screening Law

AU2312111593 Prague CTK in English 1629 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Bratislava, Dec 21 (CTK)— Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar has added a discussion of the constitutionality of the lustration law to the government agenda, the Government Office said today. Meciar is proposing that the Constitutional Court rule against and thus abolish the law.

The lustration (screening) law was passed by the Czechoslovak Federal Parliament in 1991 and adopted by the Slovak Parliament after the federation split at the beginning of this year. The law bans former Communist Party officials, agents of the StB secret police, and members of the People's Militia from high office until 1996.

Jan Filko, the government commissioner for legislation, told CTK today that the articles in the Slovak Constitution which in Meciar's view the lustration law contradicts state that "the Slovak Republic is not committed to any ideology" and that "every citizen may do what is not forbidden by law and that nobody is obliged to do what the law does not require." In the eyes of the Constitution, people are equal in dignity and in their rights, and basic freedoms are guaranteed to all irrespective of political persuasion. Citizens have equal rights to elected and other functions and the right to freedom of choice in their profession. All citizens have the right to claim their rights at an independent and impartial court, he said.

Slovenia Signs Free Trade Agreement

LD2212172293 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1100 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Excerpts] A free trade agreement between the Slovenian and Slovak Republics was signed in Bratislava's Borik Hotel an hour ago by Davorin Kracun, the Slovenian deputy prime minister and minister for economic relations, and Slovak Economy Minister Jan Ducky. [passage omitted]

The industrial goods that will be affected [by the agreement] fall into two groups. Customs duty on goods in the first group will be lifted as soon as the agreement becomes valid. The duty on the second group will be phased out gradually. It will be cut 50 percent at first and then by 20 percent the following year so that the free trade zone will be set up in two years.

The only exception concerns the automobile industry. Phasing out of the customs duty in this sector will take longer in order to synchronize the setting up of a free trade zone within the EC. [passage omitted]

Boross on NATO at First News Conference

AU2212171093 Budapest MTI in English 1432 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Budapest, 22 December (MTI)—"Stability, determination, and readiness to negotiate in the spirit of continuity," this is how Prime Minister Peter Boross summed up his political philosophy in his first international news conference today. Boross was elected by Parliament yesterday.

Quoting the Hungarian proverb "it is better to be afraid than to be shocked," Boross suggested that Hungary, due to bad historical experiences, is afraid of a new power vacuum emerging in East Central Europe. "Membership in NATO would provide stability, and Hungary wishes to join with Europe," Boross said.

The prime minister said he would strive to convince the leaders of the great powers, including the U.S. President and Russian foreign policy-makers, that reducing uncertainty in East Central Europe is more than just a regional concern.

Boross said the way to establish positive relations with neighbouring countries is by, "determined representation of mutual interests and establishing contacts through personal meetings."

Replying to a question, the prime minister promised Hungary's support for ethnic Hungarians abroad. "Our ideas are broad but our choices are limited. The Hungarian economy is on a fixed course, partly due to the recession in Germany," the prime minister said. "The economic decisions of the Antall government were sound, and they will be implemented consistently."

If required, the government will streamline public administration, he added. Boross expressed his preparedness to negotiate on the situation of the public service media, and asked the staffs of the institutions concerned to show discipline worthy of public employees. He said the government would present a media bill to parliament early next year.

It is still uncertain who will head the Hungarian Democratic Forum's national list and become the party's next candidate for the prime minister's post, Boross said. The decision will be made at the party's seventh national convention next February. Asked about the philosophy of his government, Boross characterized himself as a "consistent representative of Hungarian interests.

Hungary Requests OECD Membership

AU2312115893 Budapest MTI in English 1917 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Budapest, 22 December (MTI)—Hungary requested membership of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development [OECD], in Paris on Wednesday [22 December], Minister of International Economic Relations Bela Kadar told journalists at a press conference in Budapest.

In general, membership in OECD precedes the membership of the individual countries in the EC, and Hungary is no exception.

Discussing the precedents, the minister said Hungary was the first to establish relations with the OECD from among the Central and Eastern European Countries. The organization supported Hungary in its preparations for a market economy, and had prepared two studies on Hungary's economy. Hungarian government experts participate in 70 OECD working committees.

Olechowski on Security, Economic Issues

PM2112095093 Lodz GLOS PORANNY in Polish 10 Dec 93 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski by correspondent Stanislaw Blaszczyk; date, place not given]

[Text] [Blaszczyk] Prior to your taking up your duties as foreign minister, you were questioned by three Sejm commissions. Which of the questions directed to you by Sejm deputies were the hardest to answer?

[Olechowski] A novice minister finds every question difficult to answer. I do not want to categorize the questions I was asked as either easy or difficult, but I was glad that there were no "trick questions" among them. They were all straightforward and to the point.

[Blaszczyk] You promised that the main directions of Poland's foreign policy will be continued. What does this mean?

[Olechowski] The directions of our internal policy are changing already and will continue to change. Poland, however, remains situated in the same geographic location on the globe, among the same neighbors, and—whether we want it or not—shares their problems and is affected by their successes or failures. This is the reason for the immutability of our foreign policy directions and also for the stability of its aims. These were formulated by our highest state authorities in 1992. They can be simply represented as a strategy for ensuring our country's security. This presupposes, first of all, our participation in European economic integration; second, our presence in Western security-serving institutions and structures; and third, the construction of a new regional policy based on friendly relations with all our neighbors.

[Blaszczyk] Over the past four years we focused our attention very firmly on America. There was not even one reference, however, to the United States in the premier's inaugural policy statement. Why was that?

[Olechowski] The original text of the prime minister's address was very long. Experts working on that early draft were obliged to shorten it. As a result of repeated redrafting and abridgment operations, large fragments of the first text were left out, among them those referring to the United States. I can assure you that it was the premier's intention to indicate that we no longer attach importance to our relations with the United States. These relations are very good and it goes without saying that we regard them as an integral element of our security policy.

[Blaszczyk] Your predecessor, Krzysztof Skubiszewski, was fascinated by the West. But the West has not turned out to be particularly friendly toward us, and even quite mean. This was demonstrated through the blocking of the imports of our cherries, the allegations that our cattle were infected with foot-and-mouth disease, and the most recent mini-war with British Airways...

[Olechowski] I would not agree with this assessment of our relations with the West. It does not paint a true picture. First of all, we Poles have always regarded ourselves as Westerners. At present, almost 80 percent of Poles questioned in public opinion surveys favor our accession to the European Union. Second, it is not true that cooperation with the West brings us no advantages. In the past few years, our exports in that direction multiplied several times over. If Polish goods were unwelcome in the West, they would not be allowed in at all. Of course, more attention is always paid to such negative examples as the cherry imports or the foot-and-mouth scare, but these are trifling details when considered against the overall picture of our exports figures.

[Blaszczyk] Nevertheless, anyone listening to Minister Skubiszewski's speeches in the past few years could be forgiven for assuming that we were virtually within the EEC already and that our accession to NATO was a mere formality. Should we not view President Yeltsin's recent letter to Western leaders [advising against Poland's admittance to NATO] as proof that your predecessor's words and policies were unrealistic?

[Olechowski] I must admit that I also perceive a discrepancy between the declarations made by certain Western politicians, declarations which seem most favorable and promising in their attitude to Poland, and the West's current practice concerning Poland. That is why I see it as one of my main tasks to ensure that the political declarations are manifested in specific actions and definite agreements. I am thinking about the need to translate the language of declarations concerning our security and integration with the European Union into concrete agreements, provisions, and treaty documents to be negotiated and signed with Western states.

Russia's ambiguous position on the question of our accession to NATO is a cause for anxiety. A state cannot declare its support one day and withdraw it the next. It also gives us reason for concern because it signals a lack of consensus inside Russia on the matter of foreign policies and their strategic aims. However, I believe that a proportion of these worrying signals which reach us here is generated by so-called "information noise." I am also convinced that Russia does not interpret our actions undertaken in the interest of the European security system, including an extension of the NATO membership, as containing elements of aggression or hostility directed specifically against Russia as such.

[Blaszczyk] So can we feel secure in our own country?

[Olechowski] If we felt secure, we would surely not be talking about all these issues now. No, we do not feel secure. Nevertheless, I believe very firmly that our region will eventually become a mini-paradise on earth, since all countries have a large economic potential and a vast number of able and qualified people who are convinced of the intrinsic value of democracy and the possibilities of a market economy system. We are still

concerned, however, that all states should appreciate the value of individual human beings rather than sacrifice them at the altar of "the good of the state," interpreted in terms of imperial interests. I am convinced that our region will develop in the former direction. With regards to the present, however, when the transformation is still at the initial stage and carries with it many frustrations because it is a very difficult process, we cannot say that we feel safe. This is because many unforeseen things can still take place against which we cannot prepare ourselves. Thus, we do not know what else could happen in the future and how we would react to it.

[Blaszczyk] When will Poland enter the European security system?

[Olechowski] If I could answer this question, I would be a happy man. Many eminent minds are working on this question, in Europe as well as outside Europe. Poland wants to participate in that work. This is because we have a sense of shared responsibility for the European security system and we are aware that we must make a considerable material contribution as our input in that system. I believe that Poland will be ready to submit a formal application to be admitted as member of the European Union before 1996.

[Blaszczyk] Meanwhile there is increasing concern in Poland and elsewhere about Russia's policies and the West's ambivalent reactions to those policies. How do you assess that problem?

[Olechowski] Russia keeps transmitting a very clear message stressing that it regards itself as a significant element to be considered in all aspects of global policies, and that all strategic decisions made by other countries should take into account Russian interests. At the same time, the West indicates equally clearly that it is well aware of these considerations and that it has no intention of pretending that Russia does not exist. From our, and not only our, viewpoint it is essential to know whether or not Russia will attempt to rebuild an empire and regain its old areas of influence. That would contradict its declaration of intending to build a democratic state caring about its citizens' welfare and prosperity. That is why it inspires our confidence to hear that Russia intends to remain on the best possible terms with its neighbors. If, however, we were to witness a return to the ambitions to create another "Greater Russia" and to old imperialist leanings, then we would treat it as a sign that Russia's affairs were taking a turn for the worse.

[Blaszczyk] Our relations with the remaining neighbors in the east are rather cool. They are, in turn, influenced to some extent by the strained relations between the Polish expatriate communities and the governments of those countries. What do you intend to do about this problem?

[Olechowski] I will act uncompromisingly to promote the adoption of European standards as regards minority rights in those countries. To this end, we will take advantage of our existing channels and contacts with the governments of countries in which our compatriots feel unhappy. Our action will be restricted to diplomatic measures. I also believe that as the principles of democracy become gradually reinforced both in our own country and in the neighboring countries, our mutual relations will eventually improve. We cannot run away from one another and we should remember that the only country that can feel safe is one that views its neighbors as friends and is, in turn, viewed by them as a friend.

[Blaszczyk] It is commonly believed that the best foreign policy is achieved beginning with the construction of a good internal policy. Do you have tasks to attend to in that respect?

[Olechowski] Of course. First of all, I will endeavor to secure support for my foreign policy from members of the government coalition, parliament, and the president. In this sphere we all need a consensus. The idea is that all politicians and businessmen, as well as all government agencies, should speak with one voice when addressing the outside world. Our economy will be a major concern in all the policy lines and individual measures undertaken by the Foreign Ministry. We must activate our old markets and open new ones; we must look for new economic partners, especially beyond our eastern borders.

Vacaroiu Congratulates Hungarian Counterpart

AU2212211093 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu has sent a congratulatory message to Peter Boross, the prime minister of the Hungarian Republic, occasioned by his appointment to that office.

In his message, the Romanian premier expresses his hope that during Mr. Boross' mandate relations between the two countries will develop further, in the spirit of friendship and good neighborliness, and invites Boross to visit Romania as soon as possible.

Iliescu Addresses 1989 Revolution Anniversary

AU2212203593 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] On the fourth anniversary of the Romanian revolution victory of 22 December 1989, Romanian President Ion Iliescu addressed a message to the nation. The message says: In these days we are celebrating the fourth anniversary of the outbreak of the December Romanian revolution, an event that changed Romania's destiny.

The spontaneous uprising of the masses, their explosion of will, first in Timisoara and subsequently in Bucharest and other cities of the country, has put an end for good and in an irreversible way to the dictatorial communist system. A new historic course began, in which we wish to erect a society with democratic and open structures, with new laws and institutions that have been sanctioned by free elections, a society engaged in a substantial diplomatic reform.

Among other things, President Iliescu's message also points out that the Romanian revolution was the most radical and complex revolutionary upheaval in central and east Europe, unique by its explosive and violent character, by the radicalism and scope of the social participation, and by the sudden and total break with the former regime.

The 10 points of the communique presented on the evening of 22 December 1989 in the name of the National Salvation Front Council, the message says, summed up the fundamental wishes of the country. Subsequently, each of the 10 points have been essentially achieved.

Those 10 programmatic points expressed the essence of the Romanian revolution and clearly prove that the will of the masses that took to the streets was not merely that of replacing certain persons from the decisional center of state power, but also to radically change the political system and the morphology of society. That document unambiguously stipulated that the communist system and the monopoly exerted by the unique party [Romanian Communist Party] should be abandoned, all former power structures should be abolished, and democracy and political pluralism should be instated. The document also stipulated the holding of free elections, the separation of state powers, the restructuring of the economic system, the observance of fundamental human rights and ethnic minority rights, and Romania's opening toward the world.

After pointing out that the agitation to hatred and violence, the direct attacks against representative institutions of the state meant grave events, full of perils for the hard-won stability of the country, the message emphasizes the fact that the destiny of Romanian society fundamentally depends on the success of the economic reform and the reorganization of the entire economic life on the basis of new principles and mechanisms, and that course inevitably generates incertitude and disillusion as well.

President Iliescu's message also says that reform is the sole authentic answer that can be given to the transition crisis currently facing the country, and the sole solution to overcoming that crisis. The current moment is really critical, but I do not believe we should excessively dramatize it for political reasons, President Iliescu emphasizes. Pointing out that the country has reached a point at which reform itself also had to be decentralized, as it has to follow a course that promised to be viable, President Iliescu stressed that several priorities ought to be taken into account, such as privatization and the expansion of the private sector, the resolute restructuring of industry, the relaunching of agriculture, the reorganization of the financial and banking system, the lessening of inflation, and the strengthening of the national currency.

In his message to the nation, President Iliescu expresses his belief that there are chances for national reconciliation, after which he points out that national interests require that a political and social pact should be concluded without delay, so that concerted action could be undertaken to lead the country out of its current crisis and promote reform.

Today, Romania is increasingly appreciated abroad for its development potential, its internal stability, and the geopolitical role it plays in the turmoil of dramatic changes taking place in the world, the message says. Today, having a more consistent support from abroad for what we intend to achieve, it lies with us whether we know how to use that support to good account, to the benefit of our own development, and to assert our national identity by creation, constructive efforts, and our solidarity with ourselves and with the real values of civilization.

As I have said before, I believe in the improvement of Romania and I call all of you to join me in that belief of mine. These were the thoughts that made me address you now, on the eve of the winter holidays and the new year. Season's greetings and I wish you all a happy new year,

President Iliescu's message addressed to the nation on the fourth anniversary of the 1989 December revolution concludes.

Treaty With Germany Exchanged

AU2212183893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1509 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 22/12/1993—At the Wednesday, 22 December press conference of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign affairs, its spokesman, Mircea Geoana, informed that Romania and Germany had exchanged, one day before, in Bonn, the ratification instruments for the Treaty of Friendly Cooperation and Partnership in Europe which the two sides had signed in Bucharest on 21 April 1992. The spokesman said the exchange of ratification instruments set the beginning of a new phase in the relations between the two states, and that Romania was determined to act for the translation into fact of the provisions of this important political document.

PUNR's Funar on Need for New Cabinet

AU2112132793 Bucharest TINERETUL LIBER in Romanian 11 Dec 93 p 8

[Unattributed report on statements made by National Romanian Unity Party Chairman Gheorghe Funar; place and date not given: "We Do Not Want a Government Reshuffle, But Rather a New Government"]

[Text] In an interview granted to NORD EST RADIO, Gheorghe Funar, the chairman of PUNR [National Romanian Unity Party] stated: We do not support the idea of a government reshuffle. That would lead to the perpetuation of the situation that took shape in 1990 and which has been maintained ever since, namely the setting up of presidential governments. All those governments did nothing except undermine the national economy. A broadly based movement should be initiated "to set up a new government..." [punctuation as published]

In connection with the [Cluj-based] Caritas money-multiplying Ponzi scheme and the participation of a number of PUNR members of parliament, Funar said that the prestige of his party will not suffer as a result of this; that the Caritas society has done a great deal of good to the 8 million people that participated in the scheme, and that despite current difficulties its owner, Ioan Stoica, is convinced that it can still be revived. Besides, no connections should be made between those who have invested in the pyramid scheme and the political parties they belong to.

PUNR Favors Coalition Government

AU2312153893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1230 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 23/12/1993—At the press conference held on Wednesday by the parliamentary group of the Romanian National Unity Party (PUNR), the PUNR Vice-President Ioan Gavra was very critical with regard to the recent statement made by Adrian Nastase, executive president of the ruling Party of Social Democracy (PDSR) who had commented on some opinions expressed by the PUNR leaders.

PUNR leader Ioan Gavra said that Nastase's statement was not surprising him but it was proving a political scheme and that the PUNR did not accept suggestions, advice, conditions and directives from anyone.

The PUNR entirely assumes the statements made by its representatives, irrespective of their names, be it PUNR President Gheorghe Funar or Senator Valer Suianu. Referring to Senator Suianu's statement made at the joint sitting of the parliament debating the no-confidence motion, Ioan Gavra said that no divergences existed within the PUNR. Senator Suianu suggested that the government should resign and it was not a summon. Nothing was at random in the PUNR positions expressed at the parliamentary sitting with regard to the no-confidence motion, PUNR leader said.

The PUNR leaders maintained that the motion laid down by the opposition did not aim to bring down the government but it had been an expression of moral obligation of the opposition, just an exercise, because the opposition had no "serious alternative for government."

PUNR leader Gavra also said that PUNR believed the next government could not be another but a coalition government. The PUNR is thereby open to dialogue with the ruling Party of Social Democracy as well as with other parliamentary forces willing to assume responsibility of ruling, Gavra said.

PDAR on BUN Objectives For Decent Living

AU2212171893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1415 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 22/12/1993—In a statement on the alliance it has made with the Romanians' National Unity Party, PUNR, the Democratic Agrarian Party of Romania, PDAR, mentions that the National Unity Bloc, BUN, aims to redress the country, to ensure a decent living in point of staples, food in particular, and social welfare, but not in the sense that people "should extend their hands and ask for humiliating relief, distributed at random."

The BUN is ready and decided to get involved in an active way in order to fulfill these objectives, and if they find no openness, the BUN parties—the PDAR and the PUNR—will clearly act as opposition parties, "a constructive centre opposition different from the existing one."

The PDAR sees its alliance with the PUNR as a genuine political act aimed to last and bear fruits in the democratic development of the country, in the reform, in fortifying the system of ownership, in Romania's taking

an irrevocable course towards progress and prosperity, in the building of a state of law.

The BUN has among its immediate objectives the finalisation of an anti-crisis programme, to start with a "reasonable in-depth" government reshuffle, involving people apt to work with such a programme.

The statement says that this centre bloc, besides rendering cohesion to the followers of the two parties, will give a chance to those who had no political option on September 27, 1992 and did not vote and to those who turn up although their political options was not clear.

Ethnic Leader on Nonobservance of Minority Rights

LD2312235793 Budapest DUNA TV in Hungarian 2000 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Romania does not observe the Council of Europe's norms in regard to minority rights. This was said at the Hungarian Democratic Union's [HDUR] news conference, at which they reacted to an earlier remark by the Romanian foreign affairs spokesman.

[Begin Peter Mag video] The Romanian foreign affairs spokesman tried to deny accusations made in a parliamentary debate last week by [Senator] Bela Marko. According to these accusations, the Romanian Government does not keep its promises to the Council of Europe. For instance, the case of [ethnic] Hungarian citizens of Marosvasarhely [Tirgu Mures], Oroszhegy [Dealu], and Zetelak [Zetea] who were imprisoned on an ethnic basis, was not resolved either.

The [Romanian] foreign affairs spokesman said in a statement today that in Romania there are no ethnic prisoners, just criminals convicted of serious crimes. Disproving the foreign affairs spokesman's explanation, Bela Marko cited a letter by the Romanian foreign minister written in September. In this he promised that by the end of this year the Romanian president would grant amnesty to those convicted unjustly. [end video] UNCLAS 2R

Bosanska Posavina Croats Forbid Surrender of Land

AU2312095793 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 19 Dec 93 p 3

[Vladimir Fajgi report on the first general assembly of Bosanska Posavina Croats in Slavonski Brod on 18 Dec 1993: "Decision on the Province of Bosanska Posavina"]

[Text] The first general assembly of the Croats of Bosanska Posavina, as the highest temporary representative body of Bosanska Posavina, ended on Saturday evening [18 December] in Slavonski Brod [in Croatia] with an announcement of decisions and conclusions.

One of the most important decisions was to establish the province of Bosanska Posavina as a unitary political and territorial community linked to Herzeg-Bosnia and other Croatian parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The province of Bosanska Posavina consists of the communes of Bosanski Brod, Bosanski Samac, Derventa, Modrica, Odzak, and Orasje, and parts of Brcko, Doboj, and Gradacac.

The executive of the temporary assembly of the province is the Croatian National Council, consisting of 19 members. The assembly authorized Iko Stanic and Dr. Ante Kovacevic to represent the province of Bosanska Posavina in future peace talks on Bosnia- Herzegovina, and the Croatian National Council will appoint a team of experts to aid the negotiators.

Another important decision is to forbid the signing of the surrender of the territory of Bosanska Posavina. Any such signature or decision will be considered invalid. The political and military leaderships of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] and the Bosnia- Herzegovina Army have been requested to halt their armed conflict immediately, as they are contrary to the interests of the Croatian and Muslim people, and benefit the [Serbian] aggressor.

The assembly paid special tribute to the defenders of Bosanska Posavina, and supported their continued fighting, trusting in their readiness and ability to do so. Gratitude was expressed to all the citizens of the Republic of Croatia, especially those from the area of Brodsko Posavlje [the Sava River area around Slavonski Brod and Bosanski Brod], for the help in these most difficult moments in the history of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Among others participating in the general assembly were Dr. Ivo Komsic, member of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, Dr. Ivan Gabelica, president of the Croatian Pure Party of Rights [HCSP], Dr. Ante Kovacevic, vice president of the Croatian Christian Democratic Union [HKDU], Mladen Vilfan (HSLS) [Croatian Social Liberal Party], representative at the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia, and Ante Prkacin (HSP) [Croatian Party of Right]. Dr. Jozo Meter, head of Brod-Posavina county, addressed the assembly on behalf of the hosts.

After its inauguration, Prof. Ivo Krizanovic presented a paper on the national and cultural identity of Bosanska Posavina; Tomislav Seric, vice president of the assembly of the refugees, and displaced and expelled people of Bosanska Posavina, spoke about the suffering of Bosanska Posavina; and Iko Stanic, president of the Municipal Committee of the HDZ [Croatian Democratic Community], talked about the political situation and the future of Bosanska Posavina.

Almost all the participants in the discussion emphasized that no one had the right to sign any agreement on the division of Bosnia- Herzegovina on behalf of the people of Bosanska Posavina.

Bosnian Muslims Posing Conditions for Peace Plan

LD2212164593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1558 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] London, Dec 22 (TANJUG)—Representative of Bosnian Moslems at the United Nations Muhamed Sacirbej told the BBC network on Wednesday that there would be no peace accord on Bosnia- Herzegovina (BiH) if Serbs disagreed to allow mutual links among the eastern enclaves Gorazde, Zepa and Srebrenica and their linking with Central Bosnia and with an exit to the Sava River near the northern town of Brcko.

According to Sacirbej, no other but such a territorial linkage would meet a demand by the European Union (E.U.) for Moslems to obtain a functional state in terms of defence and economy. Any other choice, according to him, would be a formula for continued warfare.

Sacirbej in this way remained consistent to the Moslems' general manner to go on placing more and more conditions irrespective of the fact that the Serb and Croat sides in Geneva on Tuesday agreed to their demand for one-third of the Bosnian territory as was also sought by the E.U.

The talks on Bosnia resumed in Brussels on Wednesday with the particpation of the leaders of the three warring sides, the presidents of the Yugoslav Republics of Serbia and Montenegro, the president of the ex-Yugoslav Republic of croatia and the E.U. foreign ministers.

British reporters from Brussels said the talks might be extended until Christmas if Moslems on Wednesday turned down concessions offered by Serbs and Croats.

Judging by statements to the BBC made by Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic, his prime minister Haris Silajdzic and Sacirbej himself, they are discontent with the 'quality pattern of the offered territories' although they do admit that the offer meets their demand for 33.3 per cent of the entire Bosnian territory.

The FINANCIAL TIMES writes that Izetbegovic insists on his demand for an exit to the sea at Neum, not at a hundred-kilometre far Prevlaka. The GUARDIAN says he dislikes the offer of no more than 60 per cent of Sarajevo just as Croatian enclaves around Kiseljak,

Bugojno and Vitez in Central Bosnia which he wants to incorporate in a future Moslem republic within a union of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Karadzic: Muslim Position 'Biggest Obstacle'

LD2312111493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1039 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] Sarajevo, December 23 (TANJUG) - The Moslem delegation's tough position is the biggest obstacle to the signing of the peace agreement and the European Union (E.U.) is now aware of that, President of the Serb Republic in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina Radovan Karadzic said prior to the expected resumption of talks of the delegations of the three warring sides in Bosnia and the co-chairmen of the conference on former Yugoslavia in Brussels on Thursday.

"We know the importance of ending the war. We are at a threshold of achieving our historical goals and we need the war to stop," Karadzic told the Bosnian Serb radio studios.

The Serb and Croat sides have reached agreement to secure to the Moslems territories for their own state while the Serbs and Croats would complete their demarcation later because there are many outstanding questions which can be settled without fighting, said Karadzic.

The main problem is to settled the disputes with the Moslems and the Serbs and Croats will solve theirs by political means, said Karadzic.

Commenting on the current Moslem offensive on several battlefronts, especially in the area of Sarajevo, he said that the Moslems were attacking precisely at a time then a political solution was in sight.

He described this as an "old Moslem tactic" in the 20-month-old civil war in Bosnia and added that the Bosnian Serb army "must be very careful and strong in response to any attack so that the Moslems would give up hope to solve the situation militarily."

Speaking about the new Moslem demand concerning the quality of territories, Karadzic said that the Moslem side had no right to impose that criteria because it controlled only 13 percent of the territory and demanded another 20 percent.

"They were always speaking about quantity and insisting on that criteria and now, when we are close to solution, they are introducing a new criterium of quality into the game," said the Bosnian Serb leader.

"If (the criterium of) quantity is fulfilled, the problem will be settled but if quality is what they want, it can be achieved only through an exchange of territories. They (Moslems) will have to give away territories for which the Serb side is interested in exchange for territories they are interested in," said Karadzic.

Commenting on the Russian initiative for settling the Bosnian conflict, Karadzic pointed out Vitaliy Churkin's strong advocacy in Brussels on Wednesday [22 December] that the the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia be lifted, which was followed by unpleasant commentaries by some E.U. ministers.

"The fact is that the Russian side is demonstrating a will to play a more important role in the Yugoslav crisis and in the Balkans and I think that is the old Russia we have been waiting for and which will inevitably come," said Karadzic.

"It has become clear that the Moslem side is basically not cooperative and that it will lose the E.U. support in its effort to postpone a solution," he said.

Humanitarian Convoy Fired On

LD2212170693 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1600 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Today has been one of the hardest war days for central Bosnia: In an all-out Muslim attack a humanitarian convoy has been attacked on its return journey from Nova Bila. Our correspondent reports that the convoy was fired on throughout the area under Muslim control. HINA [Croatian News Agency] has just reported that according to first reports a driver was killed, another was seriously wounded, and one of the convoy organizers was also wounded. Part of the convoy returning from Nova Bila and Bosna Srebrena is now on territory under Croatian Defense Council control. It reached Uskoplje [Croat name for Gornji Vakuf] and continued its journey toward Prozor.

No Genocide Charges Pressed Against UK

AU2212203393 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] The Bosnia-Herzegovina Government has informed the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland about its decision not to initiate legal proceedings against the United Kingdom at the International Court of Justice.

The Bosnia-Herzegovina Government also informed the International Court of Justice and the UN members of this decision.

The two governments continue to feel obliged to reach an imminent political solution through negotiations. Within this context they reiterate their support to the initiative of the European Union that will be examined in Brussels today. This is written in a joint statement by the Governments of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The statement adds that the two governments are determined to work toward accomplishment of an agreement on the occasion of the Brussels meeting. They condemn all hostile activities perpetrated by the neighboring countries and support an immediate cease-fire on the territory of the entire Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Government of the United Kingdom obliges itself to make great contributions to the joint action of the European Union to support distribution of humanitarian aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Bosnia-Herzegovina Government hails this decision and expresses thanks for everything that the British Armed Forces, non-governmental organizations, and individuals are doing to improve humanitarian aid. This is also expressed in the joint statement by the Governments of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Minister Criticizes UNPROFOR

AU2212210893 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] The Serbian aggressor has recently undertaken numerous combat activities throughout the territory of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, a statement by Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubiankic addressed to the commander of the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] General Jean Cot states. Unfortunately, the Serbian aggressor has been waging a number of these activities from the territory of the Republic of Croatia, that is to say, from the parts in Croatia that are under the protection of the UN forces. The fiercest activities have been registered in the area of the village of Trzicka Rastela and around Cazin. Since 10 December the territory of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina has been shelled daily, by which Bosnia- Herzegovina's sovereignty has been violated with the intention of its political and militarily disintegration, especially in the part of western Bosnia.

We expect that the UNPROFOR stationed in this part of the territory will resolutely prevent violations of Bosnia-Herzegovina's territorial integrity and above all prevent the terrorists from infiltrating themselves through these territories into parts of Western Krajina, which has also happened often lately.

I hope that you will take all available measures to prevent these occurrences that could escalate into war activities of serious dimensions, the letter of Minister Ljubiankic to General Cot states.

Boban Informed of Muslim Offensive

LD2212221693 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Report by Zdenko Vranjes for Croatian Radio]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Mate Boban, the president of the Croat Republic of Herzeg-Bosna, has been informed about the Muslim attack on the White Path convoy in a letter sent to him in Brussels by the head of his office, Vladislav Pogacic.

The letter also carries Colonel Dario Kordic's assessment that the fiercest attacks by Muslim forces, aided by Mojahedin, were currently under way in the Lasva valley, and that the commander of the Muslim Army's Third Corps had ordered his units to use all means at their disposal to destroy everything in the regions of Novi Travnik, Nova Bila, Vitez, and Busovaca so as to effect a link-up with the Muslim enclave in Stari Vitez and Kruscica.

The Croatian Defense Council's commanders in central Bosnia are asking the president of the Croat Republic of Herzeg-Bosna to inform the participants in the [Brussels] meeting about these developments.

'Hellish Day' on Teocak, Maglaj, Sarajevo Fronts

AU2312100993

[Editorial Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian at 0900 GMT on 23 December carries in its regular 17-minute newscast several reports on the fighting in the republic.

The Teocak Press Center reports that "in order to achieve his foul aims, [General Ratko] Mladic is unyielding in his attempts at capturing the town at any cost. During the night the [Serb] enemy attacked the residential districts from several direction with 155-mm howitzers and 120-mm mortars. This morning the intensity of the attacks has intensified. The aggressor's artillery is targeting the town of Teocak itself. The defense lines in Greben are again under fire from antiaircraft guns and machine guns, and Praga from (?Tucanovo Brdo). The fighters of the 1st Glorious Hajrudin Mekic Brigade are holding their positions firmly."

Reporting from Maglaj, Hajrudin Sermic says that "the fact that the Brussels agreement carries absolutely no weight for Karadzic's Chetniks and Boban's Ustasha on this front is confirmed by their all-out and fierce artillery-infantry attack this morning on the positions of the fighters of the 201st Chivalrous Brigade on the southern sector, in the region of (?Lijesnica), (?Sedra), and (?Nekolj). They attempted an infantry breakthrough this morning with artillery support from howitzers, mortars, tanks, cannons, Praga, and antiaircraft guns, but our fighters repulsed it. Artillery shells from all directions are pounding our heroes, but also the civilians of the town, (?Omerino Polje) and (?Lijesnica). This will be another hellish day for the fighters and people of Maglaj."

The Bosnia-Herzegovina Army 1st Corps updates its report on the situation in Sarajevo, saying that "the wider region of Zuc is again targeted by the Chetnik artillery this morning, even though the aggressor is also turning his artillery at other parts of the defense and civilian targets. The enemy from his usual strongholds is pounding Vis, Zabrdje, Sokolje, Brijesce, Mijatovica Kosa, point 830, and Smiljevici from all available weapons. Tank shells from (?Pretrzine) are landing on Kobilja Glava and the city itself. A tank from Vrace is firing at Buca Potok. The Chetniks carried out a chemical strike this morning at the free Vogosca territory and (?Vranjace). They fired chemical agents for temporary disablement but fortunately without consequences." The report again warns citizens not to leave their homes and shelters.

Tudjman Returns From Brussels; Comments on Talks

LD2212203493 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Croatian President Dr. Franjo Tudjman arrived in Zagreb this evening. At Zagreb's Pleso Airport, the Croatian president presented his assessment of the two days of negotiations in Geneva and Brussels:

[Begin Tudjman recording] The biggest problem was the Muslim demand to give them one-third of the territory and we used up the entire day yesterday seeking for solutions. After talks with Izetbegovic, I met with the Serbian delegation, Milosevic and the Serbian delegation, in which we sought for such a solution. Here the Serbs pointed to the fact that the Muslims have increased their demands because during the talks at the "Invincible" their demand was 30 percent [of Bosnia-Hercegovina territory]. Now they increased the demand to 33.3 percent. We found a solution, to offer them a proposal containing 33.3 percent, which included a part of the territory envisioned for the Croat republic [of Herzeg-Bosna].

Within the conference on former Yugoslavia there was even a proposal to leave only 14 percent to the Croats, which I categorically rejected, even the thought of it. Then they accepted, I do not mean the Muslims, but the conference and the Serbian side, that 17.5 percent of the territory must be secured for the Croats, provided that such a solution envisioned that the Croat territory for the Republic of Herzeg-Bosna includes Novi Travnik, Vitez, Busovaca, Kiseljak, and Kresevo—all Croat areas in central Bosnia.

This was the hardest issue: How to secure the territorial settlement. But, Muslims had a series of objections even to such a territorial settlement and even in relation to our proposal they again set a demand to the cochairmen asking that the Croats give up all the Croat areas in central Bosnia, that they get territory elsewhere etc. All in all, one could see, also as regards this issue, that they did not wish a solution which would be acceptable for the Croats and which would create conditions for good-neighborly relations.

As far as we are concerned the whole conference was overshadowed by the [Muslim] attack on the Croatian humanitarian convoy [to central Bosnia] headed by Slobodan Lang. I spoke [in Brussels and Geneva] about the convoy and the casualties. The world can see from this example who is inclined to war and who is inclined to peace.

I can say that this conference as well as the last one organized by the European Union has strengthened Croatia's position within the international community. Everyone praised us and we demonstrated our readiness to contribute to peace but we also resolutely stood by our strategic interests.

I have to admit that despite certain demands that we should find a solution for the Muslim access to the sea and some other problems, I am satisfied that our standpoints are respected by vital European factors. I am not sure if you have been informed about events at the end of the conference when certain problems flared up. The chairman of the European Council, Mr. Claes, invited Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Churkin to speak. Churkin said that in his view the conference supported lifting of sanctions against Serbia and Yugoslavia. French Foreign Minister Juppe and Mr. Claes responded by saying that sanctions could be suspended but only if a peaceful solution for the crisis is reached. If this is not the case sanctions could even be tightened. [end recording]

Relations With Slovenia Completely Broken Off

LD2212211493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1951 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Ljubljana, Dec 22 (TANJUG)—Relations between Slovenia and neighbouring Croatia have completely broken off primarily due to border disputes, Slovenian Foreign Minister Lojze Peterle has said. In an interview to the Austrian daily KURIER, Peterle highlighted Ljubljana-Zagreb border dispute in the Piran Bay in northern part of the Adriatic sea.

Slovenia's proposal that inter-state border at sea shall run through the centre of the Piran Bay has been assessed by Croatian leadership as unrealistic and unacceptable.

What was once a firm Slovenian-Croatian alliance, the strongest at the time of their simultaneous secessioon from the former Yugoslav Federation, collapsed also because of other territorial and economic disputes.

Croatia demands that Slovenia shall make a final division of the ownership over the nuclear electric plant Krsko, built in the Slovenian territory in the early 1970s from the federal funds of former Yugoslavia and from foreign loans. Croatia also demands return of over 600 million dollars, the amount the Croatian savers had in the ex-Ljubljanska Banka in Zagreb and re-supervision over border military facility Sveta Gera or Trdinov Vrh as the Croats call it. The Slovenian territorial defence usurped the facility at Sveta Gera and the area around it after units of the former People's Army had left in 1991.

Peterle's statement on the full break of the relations between Slovenia and Croatia is the first public political admission of a serious disagreement of the two former Yugoslav republics. As a rule, Slovenian officials have so far been convincing their public that the matters in dispute with Croatia have been almost fully settled.

Army Accused of Violating Truce in E. Slavonija

LD2212163793 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1515 GMT 22 Dec 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Vukovar, Dec 22 (TANJUG)—Troops of the former Yugoslav Republic of Croatia on Tuesday evening violated a truce, opening strong infantry fire on the forces of the Republic of Serb Krajina (R.S.K.) in the vicinity of Marinac and Brsadin in Eastern Slavonija, in sector east.

The R.S.K. military sources said that fire stopped after a protest had been filed to the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] command for sector east. It was quiet on Wednesday morning in Slavonija, Baranja and Western Srem.

On November 7, officials of the Croatian and R.S.K. Armies signed a truce in sector east.

The R.S.K. was formed in late 1991 by the Serbs in the territories of the former Republic of Croatia where they are the majority population, as a response to Croatia's forcible secession from the former Yugoslav Federation and attempts by the authorities to downgrade the Serbs to an ethnic minority.

Despite the fact that the R.S.K. was proclaimed a U.N. Protected Area (UNPA), Croatian troops had made three aggressions on the R.S.K.—in June of 1992 and January and September of 1993, killing and expelling Serb civilians and plundering, burning down and destroying Serb settlements.

Officials View New Peace Proposal for Krajina

AU2212195993 Podgorica MONITOR in Serbo-Croatian 10 Dec 93 pp 28, 29

[Article by Jelena Lovric: "Heaping Up of Peace Papers"]

[Text] While the Croatian media was writing that the existing relations between the Croatian and Serbian intellectuals were disgraceful, a secret meeting between representatives of the Croatian state and the Krajina Serbs took place in Belgrade. This piece of news originates from Zagreb and Knin.

In the news conference organized by the Serbian People's Party, it was remarked in passing that the meeting in Geneva was preceded by secret negotiations between the high-ranking representatives of Croatia and Krajina. The correspondent from Knin reported to the Belgrade media that the Croatian state delegation negotiated for almost a week with the Krajina representatives. Although there are certain differences in their reports, it can be concluded that an agreement on a cease-fire and the definition of the demarcation line were reached. Allegedly, Milosevic himself participated in "softening" the Krajina representatives. In those days, even Tudjman mentioned that "an agreement on a cease-fire could be reached tomorrow."

A State Within a State

This means it is certain that the cease-fire and the definition of a future demarcation line—that is, the borders of the future Krajina autonomy—were discussed at the highest level. The autonomy means a political autonomy, the materialization of a state within a state, as this was proposed by the Serbian People's Party during the negotiations in Belgrade.

According to this peace initiative, known as "Peace Without an Alternative," the Serbs would receive territorial autonomy in the future counties of Knin and Glina and cultural autonomy with the possibility to use the Serbian language. Apart from that, they would receive four seats in the Croatian Government, at least two embassies, and the positions of a deputy minister or an aide to a minister in five important ministries. It is also proposed the law grant the possibility that some of the Krajina police and military forces become a part of the Croatian Police and Army, on the condition that the Serbs retain their names for these units, since it is considered that they would not like to be "Croatian Home Guardsmen." It also requires that all criminal procedures be stopped. There are allegedly 30,000 procedures related to the preparation of and the participation in the aggression against Croatia.

This peace initiative, which the Croatian media barely reported on—probably because they did not want to upset the Croatian population—is already supported by some distinguished Croatian leaders, since the Croatian leadership not only supported these proposals but also participated in their formulation. Strong pressure was exerted on Croatia to give up its dreams of entering the Krajina with its military forces. The weekly GLOBUS from Zagreb disclosed in the last issue that the international community offered Tudjman the following arrangement: If he makes territorial concessions to the Muslims and the Krajina Serbs, Croatia could get $500 million next year!

As far as the Serbs are concerned, Croatia is required to guarantee that there will be no attacks against Krajina—that is, to accept the modus vivendi, which means a cease-fire and opening of all communications, whereas the time-limit for the integration of the Krajina into Croatia remains open. Whether this happened because Tudjman assessed that this was a financially better combination or because he realized that he could not achieve a military victory over Krajina remains to be seen. It is obvious, though, that he is hurrying to convince the international "addresses" that he is even better than Mahatma Gandhi. Has he really transformed himself from a general into a peacemaker? This is the big question. There are reasons not to trust these peace papers since it is not known what will follow. In other words, there are reasons for being skeptical since this is yet another document that might remain a dead letter.

Unrealistic Terms

The terms defined in "Peace Without an Alternative" are extremely unrealistic. By the end of the year, the representatives of the Serbs in the Croatian Government, ministries, and embassies should be appointed; by

next spring, the Krajina paramilitary forces should become Croatian soldiers and policemen. These terms, which cannot be materialized, suggest that their authors are in a hurry or that they perhaps do not care whether they will be kept. Apart from that, it has been noticed that it is not that easy to find many capable and loyal Serbs. In other words, those in which the Croatian leadership would have confidence. For this reason, it can be concluded that this is yet another propaganda balloon, like the law on national minorities or on abolition, Croatia will use for the presentation in the world but will not apply it.

There is perhaps an even more important reason to doubt that this peace initiative really means a change in Croatian policy toward the Serbs. At first glance, it may seem that it does not have anything in common with the possessed chase after Vlado Gotovac, a Croatian poet and an estimated intellectual, but this proves that the Croatian leadership has not changed and that it still needs enemies in order to be able to survive. At the congress of liberals that took place a month ago, Gotovac made a fierce opposition speech in which he threatened to make a constitutional crisis if the leadership changes in some other way. Approximately at the same time, he also signed the already famous "open letter by the six," in which Tudjman was asked to resign. Although, this was not the only reason for his lynching in the media. Revenge is sweet, but perhaps more important than the revenge is the intention to remove Gotovac from the position of chairman of "Matica Hrvatska," which still resists the invasion of HDZ [Croatian Democratic Community] "regents" in order to make a regime institution out of it.

To Have Everything

The HDZ interprets its election victory as the right to have all positions in Croatia, from the army to the economy, including all companies, all the media, and the leading positions in hospitals, universities, in diplomacy and banks, and even in elementary schools. The lower its rating, the bigger its wish to swallow everything!

The attack on Gotovac is disgraceful and deterring. It is obvious that those who unleashed the media dogs will not stop. There is no authority that they will not try to tear apart. In the place where the media campaign against Vlado Gotovac has started, anyone who does not belong to the ruling party cannot count on being respected or having human dignity and freedom. There is no place for a different opinion there, not by the Croats or the Serbs. The Serbian problem in Croatia can only be solved in real democracy. As long as it cannot be solved in a democratic way, peace papers and initiatives will be heaped up, and the war will squat on the Croatian doorstep.

Bizjak, Bosnian Delegation Discuss Fighting Crime

AU1812193993 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1430 GMT 18 Dec 93

[Text] Interior Minister Ivan Bizjak and his assistants received a delegation from the Bosnia-Herzegovina Interior Ministry, led by Minister Aris Pahic-Bakir, in Ljubljana today.

The delegations discussed hitherto cooperation, especially in suppressing crime. They also discussed the problem of foreigners as there are currently numerous Bosnia-Herzegovina citizens in Slovenia.

Slovakia Signs Free Trade Agreement

AU2212180593 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1430 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Branko Maksimovic report from Vienna]

[Text] Beside the traditional and historic links between the two nations and young states, the economies of both countries will also be closer linked as of 1 January. This is what Slovene Economics and Development Minister Davorin Kracun has said. His Slovak counterpart, Economics Minister Jan Ducky emphasized his satisfaction over the fact that the first free trade zone agreement has been signed precisely with Slovenia.

They both pointed at the long-term significance of the agreement signed today as a part of their joint efforts to breakthrough into Europe. Slovakia has an advantage here because it is already an associate member of the European Union. Minister Kracun said that Slovenia has achieved more than just a general consensus regarding this and that there are good indications for the negotiations on free trade with the European Free Trade Association, which will commence at the end of January.

By 2001 definitely, when most of Europe will be in the free trade zone, a place within this Association will also be guaranteed to Slovenia. The agreement signed today envisages that all tariffs in mutual trade will be abolished in two years' time. As of New Year, the tariffs will be halved.

On this occasion, Slovene Ambassador to Prague Zvone Dragan, who is also in charge of Slovakia, explained to the reporters the concrete changes that have already resulted and will continue to result from the agreement. Primarily, the trade between the countries is expected to rapidly increase, as the structure of the economies is rather complimentary. Our final products are interesting to the Slovaks, while they will sell us more raw materials and semifinished products, primarily from the ferrous industry, than they have so far.

As the factory of domestic appliances and compressors in Zlati Moravci in which the South Korean Samsung has invested $150 million is nearing its completion, our manufacturers will face competition that will be favorable to the consumers. Let me also mention that Minister Davorin Kracun is holding talks with Slovak Deputy Prime Minister Sergi Kozlik.

Federal

Simic on POW Exchange Talks With Croatia

AU2212210093 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Interview with FRY Deputy Prime Minister Zeljko Simic by Zoran Jevdjovic in Brussels on 22 December—recorded]

[Text] [Jevdjovic] During the talks of the representatives of all interested sides in the crisis in the former Yugoslavia held in Geneva yesterday and in Brussels today, there were also the talks between Mr. Zeljko Simic, federal deputy prime minister, and Mr.Mate Granic, Croatian prime minister, about the overall exchange of prisoners between Croatia and Yugoslavia. An agreement has been reached on the exchange of all prisoners by the end of year. What is that in fact all about and when will it be realized?

[Simic] I shall be completely frank and reply to your question. What this is, in fact, about is that, on this occasion, we resumed the talks that we held in Geneva recently on the exchange of prisoners and the attempt to try to get out our people who are in prison in Croatia. In the talks held today and yesterday, we went a step further and set it precisely that by the end of year we should exchange the prisoners, as you have called them, although it is clear that we have no prisoners on our territory. However, we should give them more detailed information about the lists they have given us, which concern missing persons from the Croatian territory. On the other hand, we will try to squeeze out from them—although this may be a harsh word because they have been showing good will—all information regarding missing persons who are on the territory of Croatia and who are of our nationality. We will also try to get out of prison by the end of the year those people who are certainly in Croatian prisons and who have been imprisoned on the basis of their legal regulations. This exchange should be carried out to the benefit of both sides and mostly to the benefit of citizens of Yugoslavia who are worried about the fate of those closest to them who have been in prison for many years or about whom nothing is known. I am more than optimistic in this respect, as we are going to meet in a few days and try to carry out this exchange and provide all relevant data. This will be done under the auspices of the International Red Cross, which represents another, an additional guarantee, to put it this way.

[Jevdjovic] Thank you.

(Simic] I thank you.

Kosovo

Serb Military Reinforcements Arrive

AU2212211693 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1900 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] In Dragash city in Kosova, at the border with our country, new military forces and corps of engineers, along with their technical equipment, arrived today and started work to arrange objects and the environment where the army was situated.

Long ago, the Serbian Army was situated in the dormitories of Dragash high schools, from which the Albanian teachers and students were evicted.

New military reinforcements were brought alongside regular units within the Serbian sentry forces along the border with Albania.

Serb Elections Affirm 'Preference' of Albanians

AU2212180393 Tirana ATA in English 1108 GMT 22 Dec 93

["Having Voted for Their Independence, Albanians of Kosova Spurn Parliamentary Elections"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, December 22 (ATA)—The Kosovars, considering themselves to be citizens of the Republic of Kosova, did not participate in the recent elections in the Yugoslav Federation. While Kosova has nearly one million citizens with the right to vote, only about 77 thousand Serbians and Montenegrins voted in Kosova in the untimely parliamentary elections. Serbian media did not conceal the fact that in the Gllogovski commune, for example, no more than 0.07 per cent of the electorate went to the polls, in Peje only some eight per cent voted.

In the 1991 referendum calling for Kosova to become a sovereign and independent state, 99 per cent of the electorate voted for independence. In this referendum, 870 thousand people, or 85 per cent of the electorate took part. The figures were almost the same in the first multi-party parliamentary and presidential elections in Kosova last May.

These figures, compared to those of the Serbian elections of December 19, give conclusive evidence of the Kosovars' political preference.

Macedonia

Foreign Minister Returns From U.S.

LD2312105993 Skopje Radio Macedonia Network in Macedonian 2100 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Following a several day visit to the United States and the seat of the European Union in Brussels, Stevo Crvenkovski, minister for foreign relations of the

Republic of Macedonia made the following public statement at Ohrid airport today:

[Begin Crvenkovski recording] The entire visit to the United States was really exceptional. We had many significant meetings, particularly with Warren Christopher—this was the first official meeting between the American and Macedonian ministers at that level. We had talks on further development of relations between America and Macedonia, the economic situation, and possible aid.

We also had an important meeting in the Pentagon with Deputy Chief of General Staff General Michael Ryan [name and title as received], particularly in connection with the presence of the American soldiers in Macedonia; he expressed great pleasure with the way in which they were welcomed.

In Brussels we had two meetings: one yesterday at the Belgian Foreign Ministry—a meeting of informative and working character with the country-chairman of the European Community. They briefed us on the development of the Community and possibilities of future cooperation. Today we had talks with NATO Deputy Secretary General, Gebhard von Moltke, with whom we had talks on possible forms of cooperation between Macedonia and NATO. Von Moltke was particularly interested to hear our views on the development of the situation in the region.

Serbia

Balance of Power Unchanged After Elections

LD2212113193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Belgrade, 22 Dec (TANJUG)—According to the latest reports of the Republican Institute for Statistics, the balance of power in the Serbian parliament has so far remained unchanged. The Socialists have won most seats—123. They are followed by DEPOS [Serbian Democratic Alliance] deputies who have won 45 seats, the Serbian Radical Party with 39 seats, the Democratic Party with 29 seats, the Democratic Party of Serbia with 7 seats, the Democratic Community of Vojvodina Hungarians with 5, and the coalition of the Party for Democratic Activity and the Democratic Party of Albanians with 2 seats.

Zoran Dmunic, spokesman of the Republican Electoral Commission, says that election material from 8,746 of the 8,879 polling stations at which the 19 December voting took place has been statistically processed, which is 98.5 percent of the total election material. A total of 4,281,359 voters, or 62.3 percent of the republic's electorate, voted at the polling stations.

There were 171,102 invalid ballots, which is 4 percent of the total of used ballots. That is 1.85 percent fewer invalid ballots than at last year's elections.

According to Djumic, due to recorded irregularities, the elections for deputies in the Serbian parliament will be repeated in 4 polling stations in the electoral district of Nis, 5 stations in Pristina, and 11 in Kragujevac.

As has been announced, Caslav Ignjatovic, chairman of the Republican Electoral Commission, will speak about the election results at a news conference at 1400 today.

SPS Wins 16 Seats, DEPOS 11 in Belgrade

LD2212163493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1409 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 22 Dec (TANJUG)—The Electoral Commission of electoral district one—Belgrade—today disclosed final results of the early parliamentary elections in Serbia, according to which the Socialist Party of Serbia [SPS] has won 255,018 votes (30.07 percent) and 16 parliamentary seats.

DEPOS [Serbian Democratic Alliance] has won 185,949 votes (21.92 percent) and 11 seats in the republican assembly. The Democratic Party has won 138,906 votes (16.38 percent) and eight seats. The Serbian Radical Party - 113,370 votes (13.37 percent) and seven seats, and the Democratic Party of Serbia has won 76,720 votes (9.05 percent) and four seats in the Serbian Assembly.

The Socialist Party of Serbia has won most votes in all Belgrade municipalities apart from Vracar and Stari Grad, where most votes were won by DEPOS.

Because of formal omissions (control paper was not placed in the box), elections were cancelled at polling station no.22 in Mladenovac where they are to be repeated on 26 December, which will not influence the final results. [passage omitted]

SPS Spokesman on Party's 'Convincing Victory'

AU2212160793 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Speaking at a news conference, Ivica Dacic, spokesman for the Socialist Party of Serbia [SPS], pointed out that the SPS won a convincing victory at the elections and that it won 21.7 percent more seats than in the previous Republican Assembly. Here is a report by Vladimir Nikolic:

[Begin recording] [Nikolic] The data available at the SPS Electoral Headquarters are identical to those announced by the Republican Electoral Commission. According to them, the SPS won 123 seats, that is, 49.2 percent. Five percent of the electoral results have not been processed, but, according to the latest data, only the SPS has won more seats than it had, while Depos has lost 10 percent, the Serbian Radical Party 44.4 percent, and the Democratic Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians 20 percent, Dacic said and added the following:

[Dacic] In our opinion, these elections were a confirmation of the state and national policy that we have led in the past.

[Nikolic] The Socialists are going to wait for official results and, on that basis, they expect to receive the mandate to form the new republican government, above all as a party with a majority of deputies. All talks about the new government are going to be held according to the constitutional procedure and will begin when official results are announced, Ivica Dacic pointed out.

In Dacic's opinion, the SPS possesses the greatest amount of political legitimacy, so one may expect it to be given the mandate to form a new government. [end recording]

Djindjic Denies Yugoslav Army Participation in War

AU2312083893 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2110 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Interview with Zoran Djindjic of the Democratic Party of Serbia by Robert Hochner; Djindjic is in the television studio in Belgrade, Hochner in Vienna—live]

[Text] [Hochner] Mr. Djindjic, if one looks at the economic situation of your country as a result of the sanctions and of the war in Bosnia, one wonders why the ruling communists have still got so many votes?

[Djindjic] Well, there are many reasons, in particular the people's fear that things could become even worse than they are now. Of course, the media are dominated by the socialists. They used their financial resources and the state apparatus for their election campaign, and the opposition parties had many problems with organization. However, for the first time the socialists cannot continue ruling on their own. Even if they get another one or two seats in parliament, this will not be sufficient to form a government on their own. This means that we now have a stalemate in parliament, and the opposition has the opportunity to exert pressure and to bring about changes in Serbia slowly but surely.

[Hochner] If your party were asked if it were prepared to form a coalition with the socialists, what would be your conditions? Would one condition be the renunciation of greater Serbia and the end of the war in Bosnia—as this is what the other countries are most interested in?

[Djindjic] Well, we want discontinuity in Serbia. We would not support a government of continuity. This means many things—in particular the way in which the government governs. We want a rule-of-law state, rules that must be observed by everyone and in particular by the rulers, and we must become a normal country, a normal state, where political decisions are supported democratically, that is, from below, and not by one person. These are many conditions and I am rather skeptical that the Socialist Party would accept them.

[Hochner] To turn once again to the conditions: Democracy in Serbia is a justified demand from the point of view of an opposition party. Nevertheless, in the view of the world and the United Nations, Serbia is waging war in Bosnia and is trying to conquer territories, to keep them, and to create a greater Serbia.

[Djindjic] We do not see the matter in this way. Serbia is not waging war in Bosnia. In Bosnia three ethnic groups are fighting—Serbs, Muslims, and Croats; also Muslims and Croats against each other. There are no Serbs among them. Muslims are also fighting against each other. This means that it is an ethnic war, a civil war, and a bad war, but at the moment there is no Serbian soldier there, there have not been any Serbian soldiers there for a long time, and Serbia is not involved in this war.

[Hochner] Nevertheless, once again my question: In the view of most observers, including the United Nations, the Serbian leadership and the Serbian army are indeed involved in this war. Otherwise, President Milosevic would not be constantly invited to the peace negotiations, if he had nothing to do with this war. Is the existence of greater Serbia another political condition for your opposition party, which has been so successful in these elections, or could you agree to renounce that?

[Djindjic] This is not our condition at all. Our condition—that is, our political will and our desire—is that the Serbs who live outside Serbia have the right to decide for themselves on their fate, that they do not remain a minority in a nationalist state of the Croats or of the Muslims, because the states that have developed in the Balkans since the collapse of Yugoslavia are not bourgeois states. They are national states in the sense of nationalist states. Croatia and Bosnia, if Bosnia had ever existed as a unified state, would have been states with strongly developed national characteristics, and that means that Croatia would be a Croatian state where the Serbs would be a national minority, and Bosnia too. This means, we are not for a greater Serbia, but we are for letting the Serbs who live in these states decide themselves on how they live. We support them morally and materially but not militarily.

I do not know anything about these soldiers, the allegedly Yugoslav or Serbian soldiers, who fight there. President Tudjman and Montenegro's President Bulatovic are also invited to these conferences as parties that could help and not as warring parties. So it could be said that Montenegro and Croatia are, like Serbia, directly involved in the war. But the information that we have does not confirm that.

[Hochner] Mr. Djindjic, thank you very much for this interview and good evening to Belgrade.

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